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COMMENT OF THE DAY

A Year Ends

IT would be idle to suggest that 1953 has produced all the hoped-for progress towards the easing of international tension and the establishment of world peace, yet it has been a year of not insignificant achievement. The cold war continues, but its tempo and intensity has varied considerably during the past twelve months and is at this moment less malignant in appearance than it was when 1953 opened. If the signing of the Korean armistice has failed to find consolidation because of the breakdown in negotiations for a political conference, it has served its immediate and principal purpose—of bringing wasteful and fruitless fighting to an end; wherefore, by reason of this alone, the world can look back on 1953 in a benign manner. And while there has been continued frustration over many other international problems, notably Germany and Austria, there have been happier and more promising developments in other directions. One of the most important has been the restoration of diplomatic relations between Britain and Persia, accompanied by the obviously sincere desire of the new regime under the Shah to reach a settlement of the oil dispute. That such a settlement will be reached before the new year is very old is not expecting too much. The new spirit of sensible compromise which is now being displayed by the Persian authorities makes success in future negotiations virtually a certainty.

ENCOURAGING too, as the year ends, is the possibility of improved relations between Russia and the Western Powers. Concrete results to justify optimism have still to come, but two noteworthy developments have recently occurred which may lead to something positive. Firstly it now appears reasonably certain that a meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers will be held next month when a renewed attempt will be made to reach some workable agreement on the future of Germany and conclusion of an Austrian peace treaty. The differences of views between Russia and the West on the German problem are still considerable and will not easily be composed. Nevertheless the necessity for settling the future of that nation is as urgent today as ever before, and unless something tangible emerges from the Berlin conference there can be no appreciable lessening of tension between Soviet Russia and the Free World.

ANOTHER gleam of hope has been given by Russia's reaction to President Eisenhower's proposals for the creation of an atomic energy "bank", leading eventually to international control of all atomic and fissionable materials and weapons. The Kremlin refrained from rejecting the plan out of hand and has gone as far as cautiously agreeing to the proposal that the nations possessing atomic and fissionable materials should hold private discussions with a view to reaching agreement on the machinery for making an atomic "bank" operative. There is as yet no sign when such talks are likely to materialize; they may, in fact, very well depend on what progress, if any, is made at the Berlin foreign ministers' conference. But there are small signs existing with the ending of 1953 that next year may be marked with at least a trace being called in the cold war, and that the East and West will be able to draw nearer towards settling outstanding international issues through negotiations.

PLANE CRASH DRAMA

Fifty People Miraculously Escape Death

Vancouver, Dec. 30.

Fifty people miraculously escaped death or serious injury today when a four-engined RCAF plane crashed during an emergency landing at the Vancouver International Airport.

An Air Force spokesman said only the pilot, Flight-Lieutenant John Evans, who had turned the crippled plane around and started to limp back to Vancouver, was seriously hurt.

The North Star transport, based at Montreal's Dorval Airport, was on a flight to Edmonton when it developed engine trouble. As the plane approached the runway through a murky overcast on an instrument landing, it started to drift from side to side.

Retracts Accusation Against His Father

Digne, Dec. 30.

Gustave Dominici today retracted his accusation that his father, Gaston, had murdered the Drummond family.

But another son of the 77-year-old Gaston, who was charged with the triple murder last month, tonight continued to maintain that his father had confessed his guilt to him.

Gustave made his retraction during a formal hearing before Judge Marcel Pires, the magistrate in charge of the 10-month-old investigation of the murder of the British scientist, Sir Jack Drummond, Lady Drummond and their daughter Elizabeth.

"Everything I have told you is untrue," Gustave said. "Gaston Dominici, who has protested his innocence since he was taken to Digne prison after being formally charged, again proclaimed today that he was not responsible for the murder. 'It's a bad joke—I lied to you when I admitted to the murder. I wanted to save the honour of my grandchildren and I did everything as I was told to do by the police,' he was reported to have said.

When his eldest son, Clovis, stretched out his hand to him, the old man exclaimed: "You hoodlum, you are no son of mine."

Questioned by M. Pires, Clovis said: "I have nothing to add to my previous statements. My father admitted his guilt to me."

Gaston confessed last month that he had killed the Drummond family after both Gustave and Clovis had separately accused their father.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

AUSTRALIA WINS

Melbourne, Dec. 31.

Ken Rosewall (Australian) beat Vic Seixas (U.S.A.) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the final singles match of the Davis Cup. Australia, therefore, beat U.S.A., three matches to two.—Reuter.

Eyewitnesses said the plane swerved suddenly to one side as it finally touched the runway and lurched on the soft turf bordering the concrete strip.

The plane lifted on one side as the huge tyres bit into the ground, and a wing tip dug into the earth.

Witnesses said the transport hung balanced for almost a minute before going over on its back with "an earthshaking roar."

X-RAYED

Hospital authorities said pilot Evans suffered from head and facial lacerations and undetermined body injuries. The others on board were taken to the Shaughnessy Military Hospital for precautionary X-rays. There was no immediate announcement of what the X-rays showed.

The passengers included two women and two children, families of men also aboard. Several passengers said they were bounced around "like worn ping-pong balls" and some were thrown completely out of their seats when their safety-belts gave way.

"I was scared and praying all the time," said Ordinary Seaman Melvor of Edmonton. "I was sitting about half way back on the right hand side of the plane, reading a book, when suddenly there was a terrific jolt and I was upside down."

A few minutes later he was helped, shaken, from the wreckage. A crash-truck witness who saw the plane approaching the field said it was "about 100 feet from the ground, coming in like a big bird, uneasy about where to land."—United Press.

Sucked Through Plane's Door

Paris, Dec. 30.

The steward of a Belgian Sabena airliner plunged to his death today after being sucked by the wind through an open door.

The plane was enroute to Brussels from Le Bourget Field here. It returned to the airport after the accident.

The door snapped off while the plane was flying at 6,000 feet, smashing against one of the plane's two engines. The body of the steward, Guillaume Hordick, 28, of Antwerp, also struck the engine before hurtling to earth.

Airline officials said the door apparently was improperly closed before the plane took off from Paris.—United Press.

FIERY DEATH

San Miguel de Tucuman,

Argentina, Dec. 30.

At least five persons met a fiery death today when a passenger train and a tank truck loaded with 6,000 gallons of kerosene collided at an unprotected crossing. Some 25 persons were seriously injured or burned.

The gasoline exploded, enveloping the locomotive and truck in flames and throwing the engineer, fireman and assistant in the overturned locomotive, as well as the truck driver and a 14-year-old boy with him. A third man in the truck was in critical condition. Shards of metal were flying about.



As may be expected, when the hostesses at the Children's Zoo, London, hold their annual party, a number of strange guests join in the festivities. This year was no exception and a llama, ponies, squirrels, a guinea pig, a fox and some goats joined in the Christmas celebrations with the girls. Here "Rock", the Feta Corner pony, looks on with interest as Maureen McVady, the 21-year-old Supervisor of the Children's Zoo cuts the cake during the Christmas Party, watched by (left to right) Iris Daley, Roma Sunderland, Janet Nicholson, Yolanda Frada (seated), Joan Orbell and Jean Andrews, with an assortment of unusual guests. —London Express.

Laniel Resignation May Be Refused But Premier Will Demand Vote Of Confidence

Paris, Dec. 31.

The French Premier, M. Joseph Laniel, intends to offer the resignation of his Cabinet to President Vincent Auriol as soon as the 1954 budget has been voted, probably on January 3, it was learned from sources close to the Premier last night.

President Vincent Auriol, in close consultation with M. Rene Coty, who succeeds him as President on January 17, will probably refuse his offer.

Whether M. Laniel will insist on resigning or agree to carry on depends on the Assembly. M. Laniel will certainly want the Assembly to give him a new vote of confidence on the Government's general policy if he is to be induced to withdraw his contemplated resignation.

This vote of confidence would take place between January 4 and 12, at an extraordinary session of the Assembly. That period is normally one of Parliamentary vacation.

According to custom on the assumption of office by a new President, the Government was in an emergency session on January 17, though a strong current of opinion in the French National Assembly and among Conservative members of the coalition Government would like the Premier to carry on until after the imminent four-power conference in Berlin.

It is pointed out that if the Government resigned on January 17, there would be little time to form the next one before January 25, the date suggested by Moscow for the four-power meeting.

PARTY RIVALRIES

Party rivalries, manifested acutely during the Presidential election, and fears of industrial unrest are given as reasons why M. Laniel does not wish to continue as Premier.

The Radicals, an important section of the Laniel coalition Government, were held responsible for his defeat in the Presidential election, and there are fears of considerable agitation and possible strikes for big wage increases on a national scale in the New Year.

Inter-party feeling may again be stirred up over the choice of a new Speaker for the National Assembly. M. Edgar Faure, the veteran statesman who has occupied this post for the past seven years, will retire of January 15, and the Assembly will be called upon to elect his successor.

The Popular Republican, whose support enabled a Conservative to enter the Chamber of Deputies, is expected to be a strong contender for the post. The Radical Party, however, is expected to be a strong contender for the post. The Radical Party, however, is expected to be a strong contender for the post.

Merry-Making At The Zoo

Resettling The Fire Victims

\$200,000 Gift By British Government

The British Government has made a free gift of \$200,000 to the Government of Hongkong as a contribution towards the cost of rehousing the 88,000 victims of the Christmas night fire at Shamshui, Kowloon.

In a telegram received in Hongkong from the Secretary of State for the Colonies this morning Mr. Lyttelton said: "I have noted with satisfaction the prompt and energetic measures which are being taken in Hongkong to deal with this disaster."

"As a token of their sympathy with the Government and people of the Colony in the burdens which they will have to bear in carrying out the measures of relief and reconstruction, Her Majesty's Government have decided, subject to the approval of Parliament, to make a free gift of \$200,000 to the Government of Hongkong as a contribution towards the cost of rehousing."

Fire Victims Relief Fund

Total contributions to the S.C.M. Fire Victims Relief Fund for the Christmas night fire at Shamshui, Kowloon were approaching the \$400,000 mark at 10 o'clock this morning. The actual figure was \$377,786. Cheques for the fund should be crossed and made payable to "The Shamshui Fire Victims Relief Fund."

TODAY'S DONATIONS

P. Chan	30.00
Mrs. C. J. Shum	20.00
Symposium	20.00
"In memory of Mother"	30.00
Bejanee & Co.	151.00
Mr. & Mrs. S. G. Con	20.00
Central Radio & Elec	250.00
D. S. Roberts	25.00
S. M. Lee	30.00
Anonymous	100.00
N.S.Y.	80.00
Goddard & Co., Ltd.	500.00
Mr. & Mrs. P. B. Dab	20.00
her	100.00
E. Marianne Hill	20.00
F. Brice	25.00
Anonymous	50.00
Laura Gutierrez	100.00
C. J. Lowe	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Pomerantz	50.00
M. Burn	55.00
Katie Arch	25.00
Mr. J. P. Asclepp	25.00
Barry & Jimmy	20.00
Karsten Larsen & Co. (HK) Ltd.	1,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bunn	500.00
Tong	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Ho	20.00
Mr. V. V. Dicks	25.00
Mr. J. K. Wong	100.00
B. M. Wong	100.00
D. H. Jordan	20.00
Sum of Radiological Dept. Queen Mary Hospital	310.00
C. W. Yip	15.00
G. T. Ho	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Williams	100.00
Albanian Theatre	100.00
J. L. C. Pearce	100.00
Philip Brothers Inc. of New York	500.00
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	2,500.00
China Motor Bus Co., Ltd.	2,000.00
Oliver & Co. (HK) Ltd.	500.00
H. M. Hodges Ltd.	250.00
Anonymous	15.00
Mrs. K. S. Cheak	20.00
Geraldine Lau	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. W. Anselm Jones	50.00
Mr. T. Lai per C.G.S. Servicemen's Guides and Seafarers in the Missions to Seamen Rotary Club of Hongkong Chartered Accountants' Golf Meeting	100.00
B. G. Weldon	50.00
Chas. H. Arnold	250.00
Hongkong Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.	1,000.00
E. Stenham	25.00
(Contd. on Back Page, Col. 2)	

Only One Problem

Our Own Correspondent

London, Dec. 30.

Penitence, newspapers said today that a British oil delegation is expected to visit Persia soon and that Persia is expected to flow to the world's markets in about four months' time. In a cable, Foreign Minister Alistair Douglas called the Daily Express correspondent to his Tehran office and told him: "We agree to an international marketing organization, including the British. 'We agree to one international technical committee. We realize the marketers will want to be sure they can have the right quality and quantity at the right time. The remaining problem is one of management.'"

Two-Headed Baby Boy Improving

Indianapolis, Dec. 30.

A two-headed boy born 18 days ago was reported "generally improved" today, and physicians said they were now giving equal portions of food to both mouths.

Spoken at the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Hospital also said administration of oxygen was "discontinued temporarily" to see the effect. The baby's condition since his birth had been cautiously described as "critical," but physicians said today the infant was improved and the colour of the left side was better. The left side had been pale and was not given as much food as the right.

The boy, born with four arms, was brought to the hospital shortly after his birth in a Southern Indiana hospital. His parents have not indicated when they will take him home. They saw the baby on Sunday and were quoted as saying they would take him home as soon as the hospital approved.

Their family physician, Dr. J. W. Ebert of Petersburg, said he doubted if the baby would live for the infant's property and indicated that he would insist they move to town.—United Press.

SLAMING TWINS DEAD

Newspaper, Dec. 30.

Slamming twins, who were born dead in this West town last week, it was revealed here today.

The mother, whose name has not been disclosed, is the wife of a train driver. She has two sons aged nine and two. The family doctor, who helped to deliver the twins, said they were born dead, but they were buried in the ground, but all their limbs were fully formed. He would like to know their names.

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AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.30, 9.30 P.M.

KING'S WITH



Added Attraction
At the PRINCESS
ONLY:
THE GREAT
GOGIA
PASHA

At the EMPIRE

ONLY:
IN
3-D

As The Most
Notorious Woman
Of Our Time!



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HAYWORTH
JOSE
FERRER

Miss Sadie Thompson
ALDO RAY

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Special Morning
Shows

On Jan. 1st, 2nd & 3rd at 11.30 a.m.



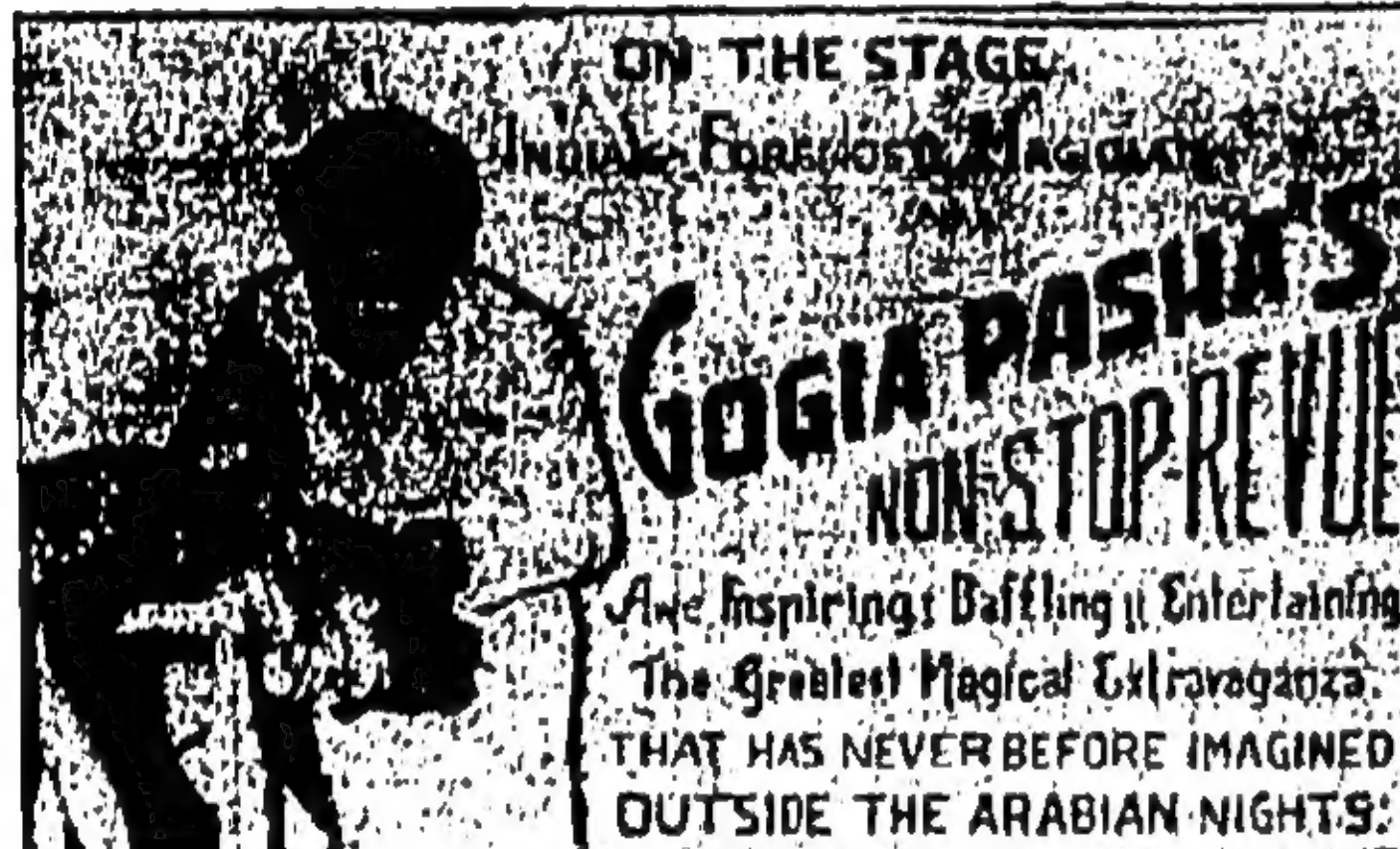
Miss Sadie Thompson
RITA 3D!

WITH STEREPHONIC SOUND ON GIANT SCREEN
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COLONY!
New American Polaroid Viewers—50c. Each.

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PRINCESS

TO-DAY



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GOGIA PASHA'S MAGIC SHOW FOLLOWS
Each Performance of "MISS SADIE THOMPSON"
Admission for Both Attractions —
Front & Back Stalls \$2.40, D.C. \$3.00, Loge \$3.50

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2ND BIG WEEK

Special Times: At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.

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TO-MORROW MORNING SHOW AT 12.30 P.M.

M-G-M's

TOM & JERRY CARTOONS

In Technicolor
At Reduced Prices: \$1.50, \$1.00

NEXT CHANGE



UK Industry Told: Increase Trade With China, USSR

London, Dec. 30.

British industry was urged today to step up trade with the Soviet Union, China and Eastern European countries behind the Iron Curtain.

A confidential report drawn up by the East-West trade panel of the Federation of British Industries — Britain's top industrial Association — recommends that trade in non-strategic goods with countries of the Eastern bloc "should be pursued without any inhibitions arising from political considerations."

The report by the Federation, which has a membership of 7,000 companies with some 290 trade associations affiliated to it, stresses that the trade opportunities particularly with China, if neglected, "will be seized by our competitors."

High-Powered Brew

London, Dec. 30.
Instead of coming to boil, a kettle burst into flames on a gas ring in a shop undergoing alterations in Church Street, Blackpool. One of the workmen had accidentally filled it with paraffin for an afternoon tea brew. — China Mail Special.

New Russian MIG's Being Tested

Washington, Dec. 30.
The "Aviation Daily," a technical publication, wrote today that according to its sources abroad, six new Russian "MIG" fighters were being tested at Novosibirsk in western Siberia. The new types were said to be called MIG-16 and 20 inclusive, but their performances were not specified.

It added that a new twin-jet bomber, EF-150, said to have been made in Ulydyev, was also being tested in Novosibirsk. The publication concluded that 63 Russian test pilots had already been killed there. — France-Press.

Huge Steel Tank For New Atomic Sub.

West Milton, New York, Dec. 30.
Probably the largest steel ball ever built in the world, a globe standing higher than an 18-story building, has been completed in a famous outside Schenectady for experiments on atomic submarines.

The Atomic Energy Commission, announced here that this welded "bathub" laboratory is 225 feet in diameter and took ten months to build. The General Electric Company, which operates the laboratory for the Commission, hopes to test in the flooded globe atomic energy-powered submarines like the Sea Wolf now being built at Groton, Connecticut, under actual deep-water conditions. — China Mail Special.



APPEAL

For Temporary
Voluntary Workers
Since the Shumshulpo-Fire Disaster, the Portland Street Centre of The Hongkong Society for the Protection of Children has been hard pressed in administering to the needs of mothers and babies.

Will ladies of any nationality who can spare a few hours mornings or afternoons kindly call at the Portland Street Centre.
Tel: 53204
H. K. S. P. G.

Thought He Was In Japan — Fined \$25

Marietta, Ohio, Dec. 30.
Arnold E. Gaskins, 20, paid a \$25 Police Court fine today for a habit he picked up during two years in Japan. Lapsing into an oriental custom, Gaskins drove down the left side of the street here, hit a parked car, was arrested for failure to have his car under control. — United Press.

Man Flies Higher, And Faster In 1953

London, Dec. 30.
Man flew faster and higher into the sky than ever before in 1953. And after four years of preparations, 69-year-old Professor Auguste Piccard, first man to ascend to the stratosphere, plunged with his son, Jacques, two miles into the Mediterranean in a banana-shaped bathyscaphe—deeper than any previous ocean descent.

The record 10,344-foot descent into theinky sea blackness off Italy was a fitting climax to a celebrated career of sea and space exploration. Piccard took up deep-sea work when his wife forbade further space travels nearly 20 years ago after he ascended 17,720 metres in a balloon he designed.

The Piccards' plunge in September took them nearly twice as deep as a record set only a month before off the coast of France by two French naval officers using one of Piccard's early model deep-sea machines. In the sky, two Americans engaged in a fantastic duel to see who could travel the most in 'times the speed of sound' in the process they went faster and higher than man has ever flown before.

These men of the future wear strange rubber suits and weird helmets, and they fly fantastic stub-winged rocket machines. At last reports Major Charles Yeager had set odds for the title of "fastest man on earth" with a flight two and one half times the speed of sound, or 1,650 miles an hour.

80,000 FEET UP
This put him one-half mach up on Scott Crossfield, who only went twice the speed of sound (1,327 miles an hour). Yeager reportedly flew up to 80,000 feet in his record bid this month, but probably did not hit the 82,235 feet reached by yet another pilot, Marine Major Marion Carl, in the second experimental ship.

Another new conquest of matter occurred this year. Man probed deeper into the earth's bowels than ever before. At a spot called Bakersfield, California, he drilled down more than four miles through the earth's crust in the search for oil—nearly 1,000 feet farther than the previous record. It took two years to get the hole that deep, and they did not find oil anyway.

One of the more hectic competitions of the year occurred back in the prosaic old jet age, the world of "official" speed records set by more practical aircraft than the American rocket ships.

SPEED DUEL
This was a battle between Britain and the United States and for a few months it waxed furious. It started in July when an American colonel set a new speed record with a Sabre-jet. Then the British took it over with a Hawker Hunter, and not satisfied with that, exceeded the record once again with a Supermarine Swift. This, it turned out, was only a stage setter for the controlled flight speed record in a weird triangular shaped craft called a Skyray. The final mark was 782.9 miles an hour. Somewhat battered but unbowed, the British had the new record all to their own at the year's end. A Canberra bomber flew to 63,668 feet last May for the official altitude mark. The rocket ships once again do not count because they take off at 30,000 feet from a "mother plane." — United Press.

U.S. Merchant Fleet In A Decline

Washington, Dec. 30.
American merchant ships are carrying only 28 per cent of the freight shipped to and from the United States, according to a statement issued today by President of the American Merchant Marine Institute, Walter E. Maloney. Portraying a generally gloomy picture of the economic situation, the American Merchant Marine, Mr. Maloney said by 1962 or soon afterward 80 per cent of American merchant ships in operation would be "obsolete." He said that no ocean-going passenger or cargo ships were being built in American yards to replace them.

The continuing steady loss of marine freight transport to foreign lines was somewhat offset, however, by the upsurge of passenger travel, Mr. Maloney said.

The number of voyagers over the Atlantic Ocean route in such new ships as the United States, Independence, and Constitution, had been on the increase since 1945, he reported, with the number of passengers in 1953 totaling more than 900,000 compared to 751,000 in 1951.

"The number of voyagers over the Atlantic Ocean route is expected to hit a new high in 1954," Mr. Maloney said.

OBsolete SHIPS
Mr. Maloney expressed concern for United States security as a consequence of a declining American merchant marine. He stressed that the bulk of the United States merchant fleet today was made up of ships built hastily during World War II which were destined to become obsolete at roughly the same time.

"A sound long-range Government program to ensure a strong merchant marine is as essential to the national welfare as a strong army, navy, air force and marine corps," Mr. Maloney said.

"Currently, not a single ocean-going passenger or cargo ship is being built in American shipyards for private ownership to replace vessels slated for retirement. New high speed tankers are needed.

"If American vessels carried only 50 per cent of American cargoes, more than half of the current troubles besetting our shipping industry would be overcome."

He said the industry hoped Congress would develop concrete measures to strengthen the U.S. Merchant Marine in 1954. — United Press.

German Pilots Being Trained In U.K.

London, Dec. 30.
Five German pilots, who flew with the Luftwaffe during world war two, are to be trained in Britain for their commercial pilot licences. When they graduate they will become the first pilots of a new German air line and the first Germans to fly in charge of aircraft since the war. None of them has flown since 1945. They are due in England next Monday. — Router.

QUEEN'S ALHAMBRA

SHOWING TO-DAY IT'S BIGGER & BETTER THAN 'THE CRUEL SEA'



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Extra Performance At 11.30 a.m.

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Paramount Film Presents
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POP



SPORTING EVENING



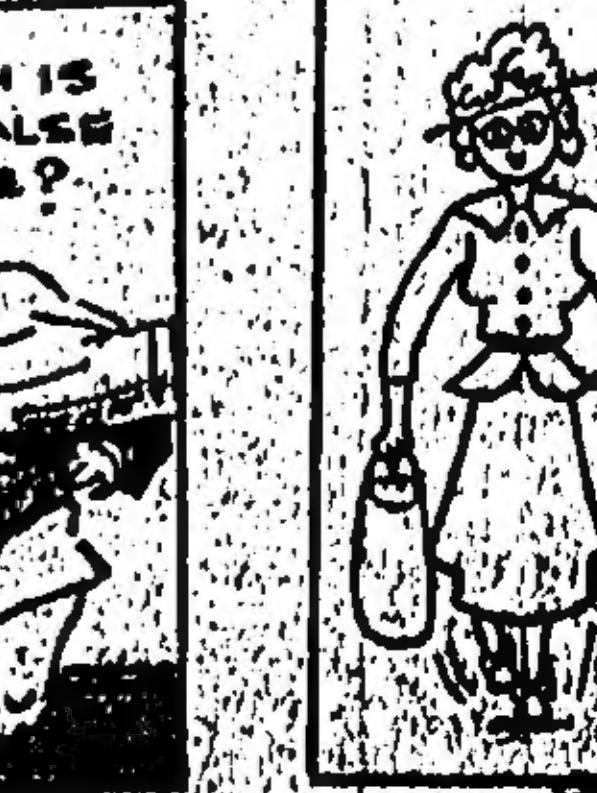
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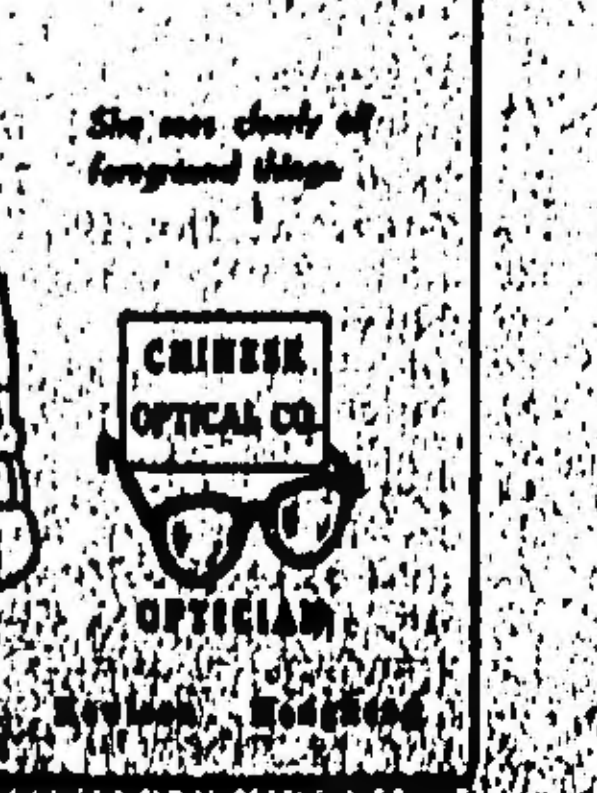
SPORTING EVENING



POP



SPORTING EVENING



WEST AGREES TO MEET RUSSIA ON JAN. 25

Need For Reuniting Germany Stressed

London, Dec. 30.

The Western Powers would accept Jan. 25 as the date for the opening of the Four-Power talks in Berlin, it was learned authoritatively tonight.

They said the text of the Western reply to the Soviet note of December 26 on the proposed Foreign Ministers Conference would most likely be handed to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow on Jan. 1.

Other features of the draft reply now being completed in Paris were said to be firstly, the Western powers would stick to their proposal to have the meeting in the building of the Allied Control Commission in Berlin.

Atomic War In Korea? Britain Is Surprised

London, Dec. 30.

Diplomatic quarters here expressed surprise today at the statement of Admiral Soha Won Il, South Korean Defence Minister, that the United Nations would use atomic weapons if there were renewed Communist aggression in Korea.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the question had not been considered by the United Nations with forces in Korea. He emphasized that no mention of a possible use of atomic weapons had been made by Mr. John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, in his press conference yesterday.

He said the United States—only other United Nations country with forces in Korea that possesses atomic weapons—had not given any indication to Britain that she intended to use them if hostilities were resumed.

The British view is that consultations would be required before any drastic decision of this kind was made.

The spokesman said the United States had informed Britain in advance of her intention to withdraw two divisions from her land forces in Korea. He saw no reason to connect this with any American plan to use atomic weapons.

The American denial that the divisions are destined for Indo-China has been noted here. It is pointed out that France has traditionally opposed any participation of American troops in the war against the Vietnamese rebels.

France's reason is understood to be that this might provoke open Chinese Communist intervention.—Reuters.

They would agree, however, with the Soviet suggestion to have the issue of the exact location of the conference site discussed by the representatives of the High Commissioners of the Four Powers in Germany.

The same circles added that West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was being informed of the Western reply.

In Berlin, Reuters reported that Herr Jakob Kaiser, West German Minister for All-German Affairs, said in a New Year broadcast that the coming four-power conference in Berlin had turned "something like a dream of hope on Berlin's refugee situation and East Germany."

REUNITED GERMANY
Speaking over the Northwest German Radio in West Berlin, he said that a certain willingness to achieve a "reuniting of Germany" during the past few months, and conditions in Europe could be stabilised only if the "central cause of tension," the division of Germany, was overcome.

He said the determination of 70,000 Germans who wanted to live in freedom in a reunited state would be decisive at the four-power conference.

"It is aggravating for our cause that we cannot attend the conference ourselves," he said. "One can only hope that the German case will present the German case with all its deviousness, not only for the sake of Germany, but also for the sake of Europe," he added.—Reuters & France-Press.

USSR Party Committees

Moscow, Dec. 31.

Communist Party Central Committees in several Soviet Republics have decided to call Party Congresses in February, it was announced today.

The Uzbekistan party will hold its 12th Congress on February 15, Kirghizia its seventh on February 10, Turkmenistan its 12th on February 8, Byelorussia on February 10 and Kazakhstan on February 8.—United Press.

It Pays To Advertise?

Palo Alto, Calif., Dec. 30.

Mrs. Doris Bana got faster results than she expected when she appeared on a radio show and offered pure-bred collie pups to persons who would give them a good home.

Returning home, she found one of the pups missing and a note tacked on her front door reading: "Heard you on the radio. Loved your dogs. Took one for my boys in Los Angeles. Thanks."—United Press.

Russia To Return U.S. Ships

Paris, Dec. 30.

Radio Moscow announced tonight the USSR was ready to send the 180 warships leased to the Soviet Union by the United States during World War II, to foreign ports nearest the United States.

The United States has requested the return of these warships earlier.

The radio said that the return of these ships was part of the overall problem of a Lend Lease settlement.

In a dispatch dated from Washington, the radio said that the Soviet government's intention was made known to United States officials at a meeting held by representatives of both countries yesterday in Washington.

NAVY LAUNCHES
The radio said that the meeting was held to discuss the technical details dealing with the return to the United States, in accordance with the desire expressed by the US Government of the 180 ships, principally fast navy launches and landing vessels included among the ships lend-leased to the Soviet Union during World War II.

The radio said, "The question of the return of these ships which as agreed by both parties are not subject to a system of sale to the Soviet Union is part of the general problem of lend-lease settlement."

The radio added that "at the meeting of December 29, the Soviet representative listed the foreign ports nearest to the United States where the Soviet Government was ready to send the ships involved.—France-Press.

"Severe Exertion Not Likely To Harm You"

London, Dec. 31.

Britain's Olympic mile runner, Roger Bannister, said today that there was little evidence of any permanent harm ever being caused by severe exertion.

Mr. Bannister, winner of the mile at the 1948 Olympic Games, was speaking at a symposium on stress—"The baffling health problem estimated to be the cause of the complaints of 80 percent of the patients seen in general practice."

Eight leading medical specialists and a Bishop contributed to the discussion.

Dr. C. J. Gaver, heart specialist at Westminster Hospital, said patients "excessive tolerance" was the best guide to what his heart could stand.

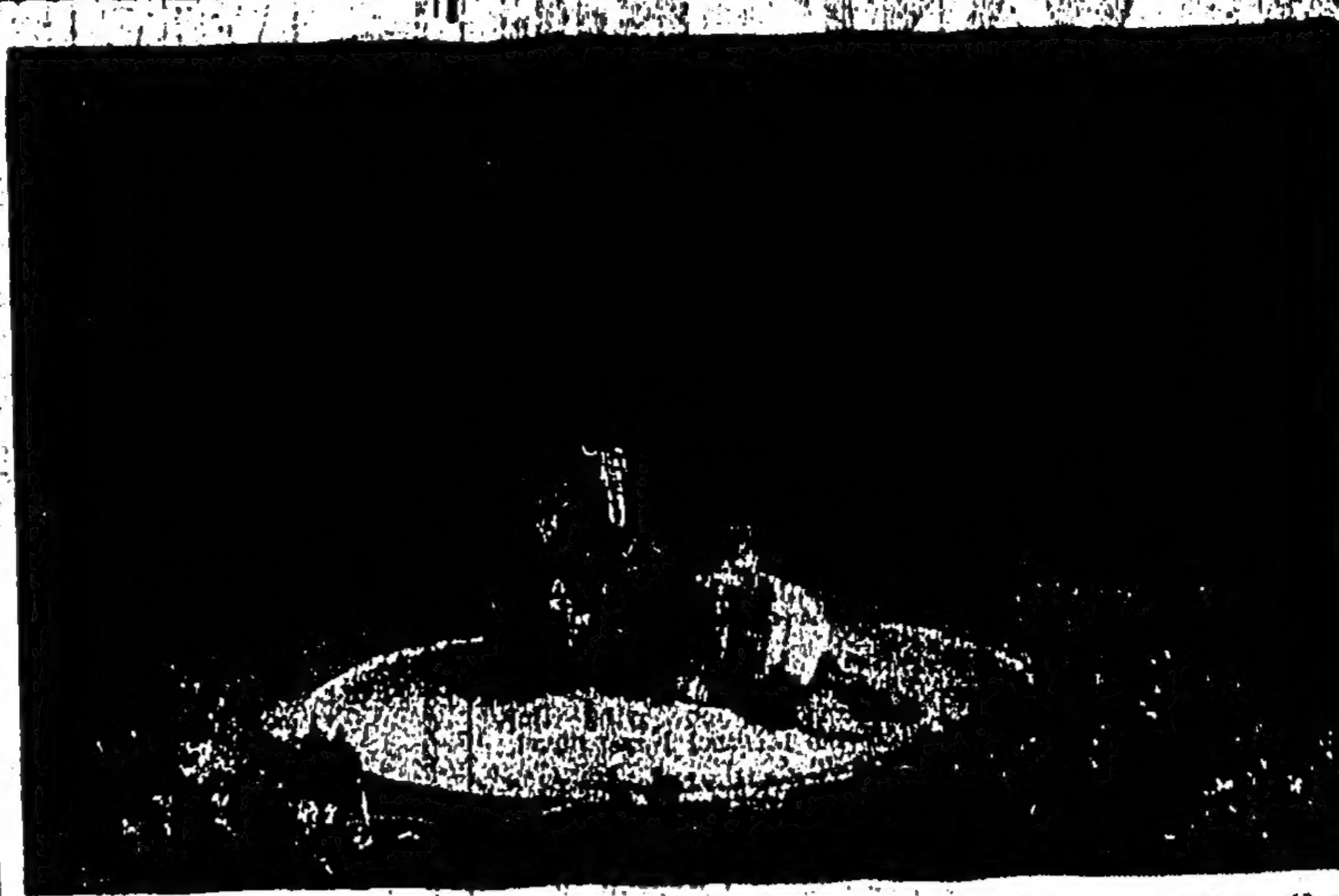
"Life is for living. Risks are part of it and should not be denied," he said, "certain patients," he added, "are not fit to take risks."

Dr. C. J. Gaver, heart specialist at Westminster Hospital, said patients "excessive tolerance" was the best guide to what his heart could stand.

"There is inherent in human nature a tension, a stress, an anxiety, which no improvement of external conditions, individual or social, can cure. I believe that not a few seek relief in medical aid and psychotherapy. Certainly sympathy and understanding and a capacity to listen and to help are essential."

Dr. C. J. Gaver, heart specialist at Westminster Hospital, said patients "excessive tolerance" was the best guide to what his heart could stand.

Bertram Mills Opens Its London Season



The festive season opens when six thousand happy children watched the first performance of this year's Bertram Mills' Circus at Olympia, London.—Express Photo.

Forest Fire Threat To U.S. Observatory Eases As Wind Drops

Los Angeles, Dec. 30.

A fire which swept through Angeles National Forest and threatened the Mt Wilson Observatory and \$33,000,000 in television transmitters and equipment came almost to a standstill today.

Winds, which had fanned the fires to raging fury, diminished. On a 24-mile front the fire seemed shackled.

The Mt Wilson fire, larger of two blazes, was burning slowly in a canyon immediately below a 5,000-foot rocky ridge where the Observatory, housing the world's second largest telescope, was perched.

The Wilson fire was burning out of control on a six-mile front.

Observers said that the change in wind velocity "definitely lessened" the threat to the Observatory.

Meanwhile, at Albuquerque, New Mexico, the United States Forest Service Office disclosed that 20 Morcelero Apache "Red Rats," making up one of the top forest fire crews of the nation, were on their way to aid in fighting the fires in the Angeles Forest.

Descendants of Mesquero warrior bands with which Geronimo terrorized New Mexico and Arizona generations ago, the Apaches are known in the Forest Service for almost phenomenal speed with which they clear fire lines, and for uncanny skill at back-firing ahead of blazes.

Other Indians, Zuni from Gallup and Zia from Albuquerque, were going to help. New Mexico sent 280 men to the fire on Monday.—United Press.

20,000 ACRES BURNT
The blaze has already destroyed 20,000 acres of timber and forced more than 2,000 people from their homes.

In the Middle West today, an unexpected warm front blunted the edge of a cold wave, while the East suffered a heavy fog.

On the East Coast, an early morning fog reduced visibility to almost zero and snarled air and ground traffic in the New York area. Airline take-offs were delayed and two sections of the Jersey turnpike were closed before sunshine burnt the fog away.

At the height of the fog a New York motorist, thinking he

was on a city street, drove off a 300-foot-long pier.

His car sank in 11 feet of water but he was rescued by a Coast Guardsman who heard the splash.

Two tankers collided in the fog and caught fire in the Delaware River off Newcastle, Delaware. The bodies of five crewmen were recovered from the chill waters of the River and four others were missing.

The Middle Western cold wave failed to live up to advance billing, but the temperature sank to 35 degrees below zero at International Falls, Minnesota.

Forecasters, who had predicted a major cold wave, said the warm front popped up unexpectedly on the weather map, bringing a moderating influence.

Chicago's temperature dipped to 10 above zero instead of the expected zero to 10 below.—United Press.

High U.S. Award For Mount Everest Climbers

Washington, Dec. 30.

The National Geographic Society announced today that it had awarded the Hubbard Medal—conferred only 15 times in the past 50 years—to the British expedition which conquered Mount Everest this year.

Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor, Society president, said that Sir John Hunt, leader of the expedition, and Sir Edmund Hillary would receive the medal in Washington on February 11.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing were the first men to scale Everest.

The Hubbard Medal has earlier been awarded to distinguished Arctic and Antarctic explorers.

The Society said the medal to be presented to the expedition would bear the inscription: "Awarded to the British Everest expedition for extraordinary courage and skill, and outstanding service to geography in the triumphant conquest of earth's highest mountain, May 29, 1953."—Reuters.

IN CASE OF WAR
These circles said that negotiations between Britain and Egypt on the future of the Suez Canal zone, which could resume shortly, excluded any idea of Egyptian neutrality in the "cold war."

The object of these negotiations would be, in fact, to decide on the part each of the two countries would play in case of war.

These circles considered that a programme of Egyptian "neutrality" would be aimed at inducing Britain to make concessions to Egypt, and at inducing the United States to bring pressure to bear on Britain for the same ends.

They added, however, that President Mohammed Naguib might, on the other hand, wish to break off all contacts with Britain and give up the idea of a negotiated agreement on the evacuation of the Suez Canal base.—France-Press.

A TRIANGLE RESOLVED:

Miss Hutton Gets Her Man

New York, Dec. 30.

Miss Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress, and Mr. Portifrio Rubirosa, Dominican Republic diplomat, were married here today in a civil ceremony—her fifth marriage, his fourth.

This was despite the sudden intrusion of Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor, a film star, who announced yesterday from Las Vegas Nevada, that Rubirosa really loved her and, as proof, had blackened her eye.

They were married in a 10-minute ceremony in Spanish and English in the Manhattan home of Dr. J. Salazar, Dominican Consul-General, who performed the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by a few close friends—and the reporters, of whom about 100 had waited all day in the lobby of the hotel where the bride was staying.

It was the second time Mr. Rubirosa has married one of the world's richest women. One of his previous wives was Doris Duke, the heiress.

"I loved him from the moment I saw him," Miss Hutton told a press conference—only an hour before the ceremony.

She complained that nobody ever believed that anybody loved her for herself alone and vowed that her marriage to Mr. Rubirosa would last.

Mr. Rubirosa said "riches meant nothing to him," he had plenty of money of his own and his big desire was to make his new wife happy.—Reuters.

Record Exports Of Aircraft By U.K. In 1953

London, Dec. 30.

British aircraft exports reached a new record of £284 million this year, the Society of British Aircraft Constructors announced today.

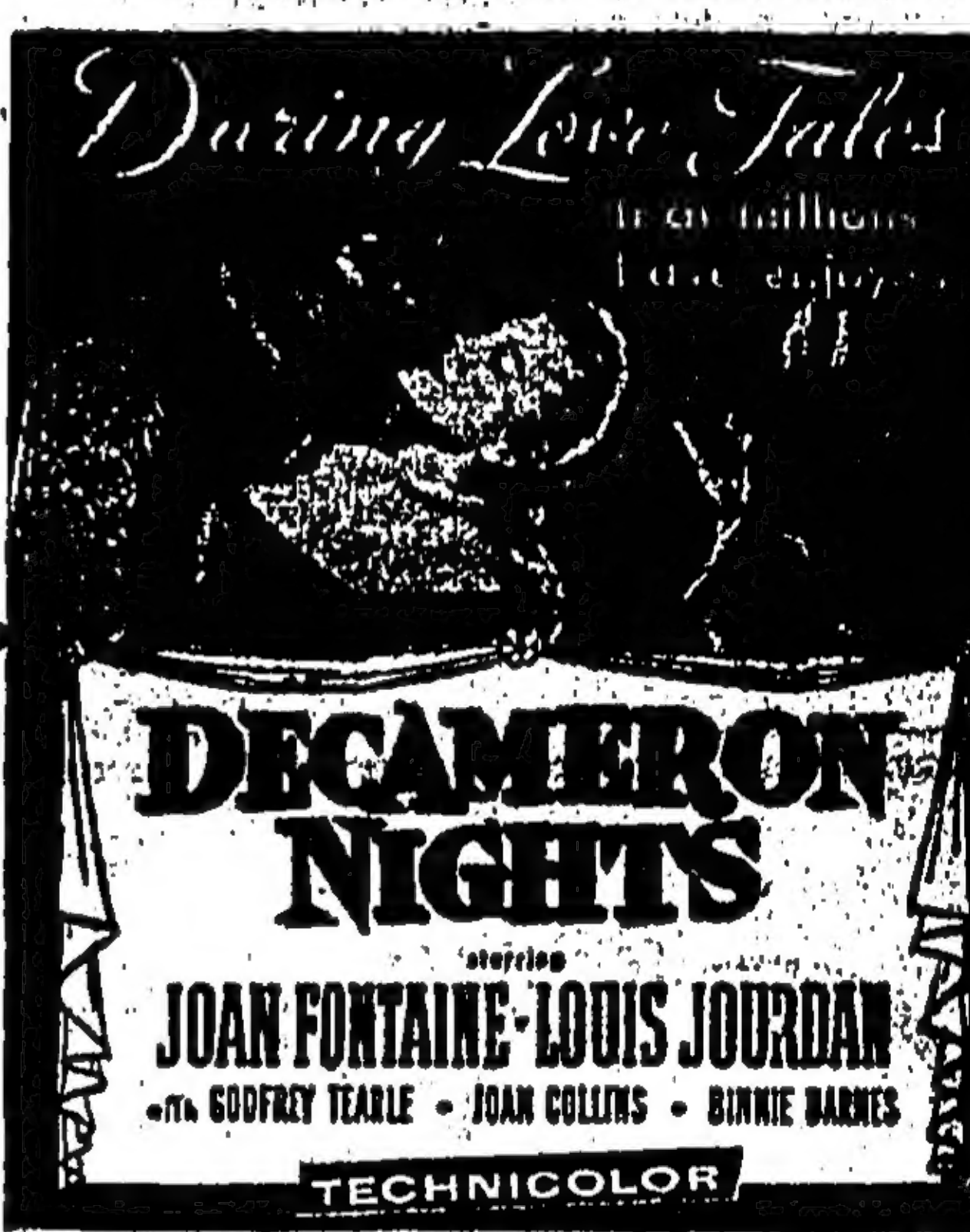
The 1953 figure was £244 million.

Orders booked for the new British jet and turbojet planes total £264 million.

The industry's labour force increased by 25,000 to 225,000 during the year.—China Mail Special.

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AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



★ 5 SHOWS TO-MORROW ★
LEE at 12.00 Noon • GREAT WORLD at 12.30,
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NEW ARTISTS JUST ARRIVED FROM ASIA



THE COMET PEOPLE
THE WORLD FAMOUS
5 ELWARDOS

SEE
THE WORLD FAMOUS
5 ELWARDOS

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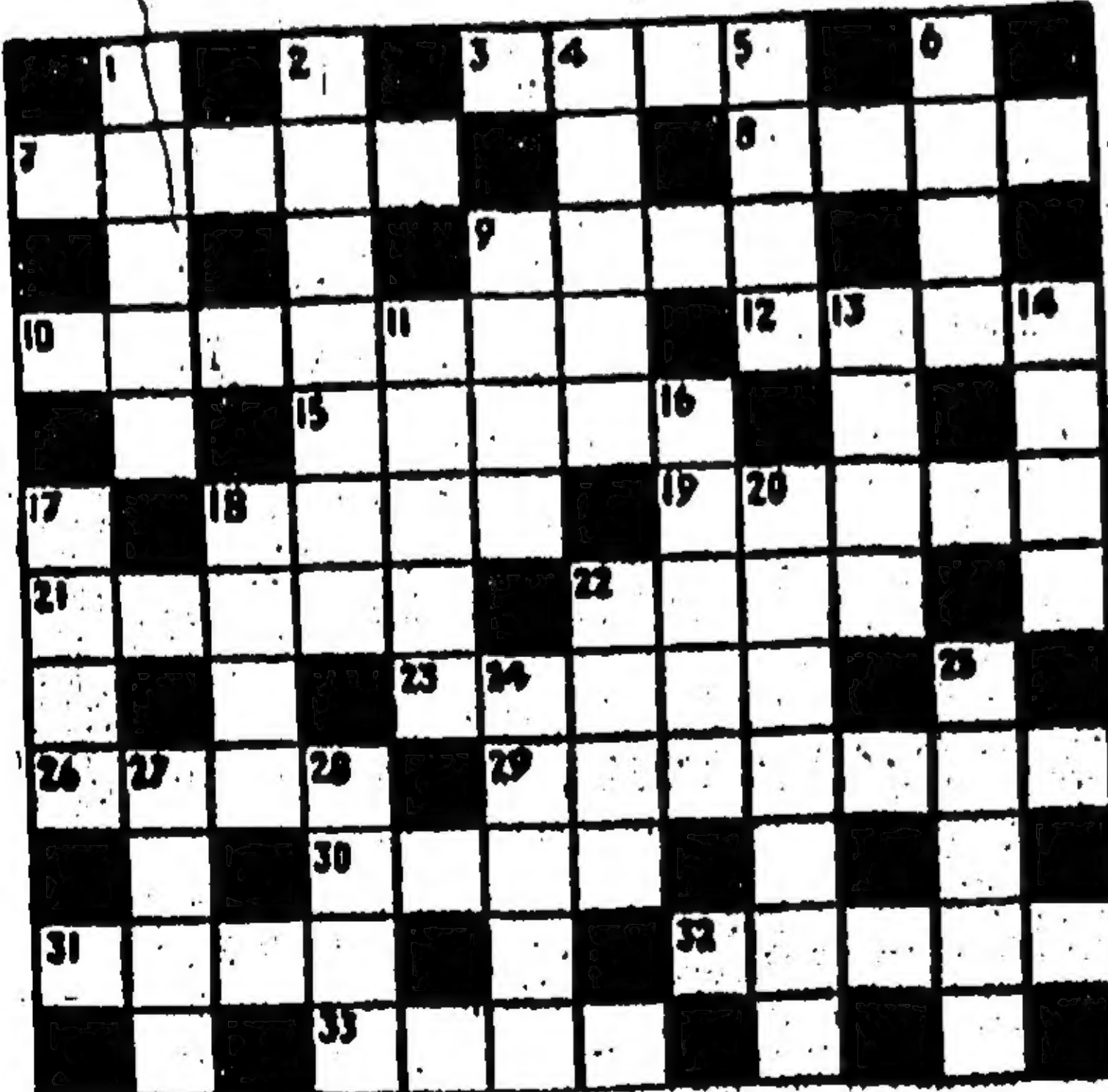
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SEE
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A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Across (4).
 - 7 Across for (5).
 - 8 Across (4).
 - 9 Across (4).
 - 10 Across (7).
 - 12 Across (4).
 - 15 Across (5).
 - 18 Across (5).
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 - 25 Across (5).
 - 26 Across (5).
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 - 29 Across (5).
 - 30 Across (5).
 - 31 Across (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Down (5).
 - 2 Down (7).
 - 3 Down (5).
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 - 29 Down (4).
 - 30 Down (4).
 - 31 Down (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across—1. Custer, 7. Ella, 9. Salvo, 10. Broom, 11. Broom, 12. Attempting, 13. Tent, 14. Shod, 15. Broom, 16. Broom, 17. Broom, 18. Broom, 19. Broom, 20. Broom, 21. Broom, 22. Broom, 23. Broom, 24. Broom, 25. Broom, 26. Broom, 27. Broom, 28. Broom, 29. Broom, 30. Broom, 31. Broom.

★ DON IDDON'S DIARY ★

AMERICANS NOW WANT BIG VALUE FOR SMALL OUTLAY

New York, Tuesday. President Eisenhower is cutting right, left, and centre. He is slashing Government spending on everything, lopping off \$3,000,000,000 from his armaments budget and wielding the axe all along the line.

These moves are welcomed by most people, and the President's popularity is high and mounting. Mr. Eisenhower, after earlier floundering, has now expanded his public and Press relations.

For the first time in history, the full recorded text of his Press conference was broadcast to the American people. Like, in other words, hold his Press conference in the American living-room.

Ike and the Press

SOON the President plans to have his Press conference televised so that the public will be able to see as well as hear him in action with the Press.

Newspapers are being encouraged, publishers and editors are being wooed and won. The old rule transcript, calling for use of the third person when quoting the President, is to be scrapped. These are great gains from the newspaperman's point of view.

Sharp economy

I AM inclined to agree. I have been trying out some American cars this past week or two and have noticed that even reasonably priced models have automatic gear-change, electrically operated windows and seats, and that power steering and power brakes (two wonderful developments) don't cost too much extra.

Some American manufacturers claim they offer "twice the value of British cars for two-thirds the price." This is an exaggeration, but I don't see the all-out effort by all our motor-car men that is needed to garner the dollars.

Americans today want big value for small outlay. Economy is sharp in the American air.

slightly acidulous treatment from the wayward Press. Should he come to Washington or New York for conferences and insist upon a news blackout and the barring of the Press the reaction would be hostile.

With the stars

I've had quite a few letters from Australia and New Zealand lately. Eric Dumbleton, editor of the Auckland Star, writes that interest in the royal visit is mounting to "fervour." He asks what Americans think about the royal tour.

Frankly, it has been reported soundly here, tucked away obscurely except by the picture magazines. There was far more in the American Press about the Canadian trip when the Queen was Princess.

Holiday bookings along Broadway in this expanded city are good, according to showmen. "Oh Men, Oh Women," starring a rejuvenated Franchot Tone, is a new hit and likely to last.

"The Prescott Proposals," with Katherine Cornell, and all about the United Nations, disappointed the critics but appeared to please the public.

CLARK GABLE is holding out against signing a new contract with M-G-M. After conferences in London, Clark Gable still wants to choose his own film stories.

Greer Garson is going to England again to make "The Case of the Journeying Boy," from the Michael Innes novel.

Deborah Kerr will star in the filming of Graham Greene's "The End of the Affair," but will go to London first in her play "Tea and Sympathy."

Zsa-Zsa Gabor says: "During all our marriage George Sanders and I had only one thing in common—we both loved George."



OLD LOW'S ALMANACK—

World Copyright by arrangement with the Manchester Guardian

Chapter 39 of Sir Winston Churchill's "Triumph And Tragedy"

SPLIT OVER POLAND'S NEW FRONTIERS

WE did not recur to Poland [at Potsdam] till our fifth meeting, on July 21. The Soviet delegation wanted Poland's western frontier to run to the west of Swinemunde, as far as the Oder river, leaving Stettin on the Polish side, then up the river Oder to the estuary of the Western Neisse, and from there along its course to Czechoslovakia.

Mr Truman recalled that we had agreed to divide Germany into four zones of occupation, based on the 1937 frontiers. The British and the Americans had moved their troops back into their new zones, but apparently the Soviet Government had given the Poles a zone of their own without consulting us. Unless this zone counted as part of Germany how could we settle reparations and all the other German questions?

Stalin denied giving the Poles a zone of their own. He declared that the Soviet Government had not been able to stop them. The German population had retreated westwards with the German armies. Only the Poles remained. The Soviet armies need someone to administer their rear areas. They were not accustomed to fight and clear territory and set up their own administration at the same time. Why not let the Poles do it?

"We ought to keep to the zones we agreed at Yalta," said the President. "If we don't, reparations and all sorts of other matters will be difficult to settle."

"We are not worried about reparations," said Stalin. "The United States will get none anyhow," answered Mr. Truman, "but they will also try to avoid paying anything."

"Nothing definite was fixed at Yalta about the western frontier," said Stalin. "None of us are bound."

THIS was true. The President said he did not think we could settle the matter now. It would have to wait for the Peace Conference.

"It will be still more difficult," said Stalin, "to restore a German administration."

"You can use a Polish one in your own zone of occupation in Germany," said the President.

"That is all very well," was Stalin's answer, "but the Germans have fled and the natural and indeed the only solution is to set up a friendly administration of Poles. This does not commit us to any particular boundary, and if the Conference cannot agree about one, it can remain in suspense."

"Can it?" I interrupted. "These are very important areas for feeding Germany."

"Who will produce the grain?" countered Stalin. "There is nobody left to plough the land except Poles."

"What has become of the German army?" we both asked. "They have fled."

I had taken little part in these interchanges, but now I spoke. How, I asked, were we to feed the Germans who had fled? A quarter of Germany's arable land would be lost. If the area suggested by British and American was given to Poland about three or four million Poles would have to be moved; but the Soviet plan would mean shifting more than eight million Germans.

Would there be room for them in what was left of Germany? I was not even sure that Stalin was right that all the Germans had fled. Some people thought

that more than two million were still there.

Stalin thereupon challenged my figures, saying that the Germans had called up many men from these regions. The rest had fled. Not a single German remained in the area which he proposed to give to the Poles. The Germans had quit their lands between the Oder and the Vistula. The Poles were cultivating them, and they were not likely to let the Germans come back.

THE President still wanted us to leave the western frontier to the Peace Conference, but I persisted. Poland, I said, deserved compensation for the land east of the Curzon Line which she was going to lose to Russia, but she was now claiming more than she had given up. If there were three or four million Poles east of the Curzon Line, then room should be made in the west.

So considerable a movement of population would shock the people of Great Britain, but a move of 8½ million would be more than I could defend. Compensation should bear some relation to loss. It would do Poland no good to acquire so much extra territory.

If the Germans had run away from it, they should be allowed to go back. The Poles had no right to risk a catastrophe in feeding Germany. We did not want to be left with a vast German population who were cut off from their sources of food. The Ruhr was in our zone, and if enough food could not be found for the inhabitants we should have conditions like the German concentration camps, including Russia, and Ukrainians. When the Red Army arrived, these foreign labourers had gone home. Enormous numbers of men had been mobilised in Germany, and most of them were either killed or captured. The vast German industries had had few German workers, but depended on foreign labour, which had now melted away. They must either be closed down or the Poles must be given a chance to run them.

What had happened was not the result of deliberate policy, but a spontaneous course of events. And only the Germans were to blame for it. He agreed that the Polish Government's proposals would make difficulties for Germany.

"And for the British as well," I interjected. But Stalin said he did not mind making difficulties for the Germans. It was his policy, and it would stop them starting another war. It was better to make difficulties for Germany than for Poles, and the less industry in Germany the more markets for Britain.

WHEN we met next day, on Sunday, July 22, we were no nearer agreement. I repeated and emphasised the more important reasons why his Majesty's Government could not accept the Polish demands, and set them forth as follows:

(i) The final decision on all boundary questions could only be reached at the Peace Conference. (Stalin said he agreed with this.)

(ii) It would not be advantageous for the Polish nation to take over so large an area as the Poles were asking for.

(iii) It would rupture the economic unity of Germany, and throw too heavy a burden on the Poles, who were not yet ready to take on so much.

Stalin said that his remarks were not intended to prevent our policy, and I asked him to realise what we were faced with, namely, a large number of Germans dumped in our zone who could only be fed from the area which the Poles had occupied.

Stalin said that his remarks were not intended to prevent our policy, and I asked him to realise what we were faced with, namely, a large number of Germans dumped in our zone who could only be fed from the area which the Poles had occupied.

(iv) The British had grave moral scruples about vast movements of population. We could accept a transfer of Germans from Eastern Germany equal in number to the Poles from Eastern Poland transferred from east of the Curzon Line—say 2 million to 3 million; but a transfer of 8 million or 9 million Germans, which was what the Polish request involved, was too many and would be entirely wrong.

(v) The information about the number of Germans in the disputed areas was not agreed. The Soviet Government said that they had all gone. The British Government believed that great numbers, running into millions, were still there. We, of course, had not been able to check these figures on the spot, but we must accept them until they were shown to be wrong.

Stalin still insisted that Germany could get enough fuel from the Ruhr and the Rhineland, and that there were no Germans left in the territory which the Poles had occupied.

Considerable discussion followed about referring the whole matter to the Council of Foreign Ministers. The President said he could not understand why it was so urgent. It could not be finally settled till the Peace Conference. We had had a most useful and helpful discussion, and the best course was to remit the question to the Foreign Ministers.

I PROTESTED that it was very urgent. Grievances would remain unremedied. The Poles who had assigned to themselves had been assigned to this area would be digging themselves in and making themselves masters. The Conference ought to make some sort of a decision, or at least we should know where we stood.

It was no use asking the Poles to a discussion with the Council of Foreign Ministers. In the meantime the whole burden of fuel and food problems would remain, and would fall particularly on the British, whose zone had poor food supplies and the largest population.

Why not have a line which the Polish authorities could provisionally occupy as Poles, and agree that west of that line any agents of the Soviet Government would be working as the new Poland should advance its western frontier to what might be called the line of the Oder.

The difference between Stalin and myself was how far this extension should reach.

The words "line of the Oder" had been used at Yalta. This was not an exact expression, but the British delegation had a line which could be considered in some detail by the Foreign Secretary. I pointed out that I had only used the words "line of the Oder" as a general expression, and that it could not be properly explained without a map. But I begged my colleagues to persevere.

What would happen if the Foreign Secretary met in September and discussed Poland, and again reached a deadlock, as when the winter was upon us? Each for instance, used to get some of the best from the Poles.

He asked, he considered, came to nothing—and the world has yet to measure the serious consequences which I fore-

(Continued on Saturday)

ALL THE BEST
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THE GREATEST YEARS IN BADMINTON'S HISTORY ARE JUST AHEAD

By "ARGONAUT"

Nearly 20 years ago, on July 5, 1934, nine national Badminton organisations met in London and formed the International Badminton Federation — a body which today has almost 30 national organisations as members and is responsible for a sporting event—the Thomas Cup—which is rapidly building badminton into one of the truly great amateur international sports. Badminton can now well claim to be a world game.

Throughout the nearly 20 years' history of the International Badminton Federation one of the brightest features has been the tremendous popularity of the game throughout Asia.

Malaya has held the Thomas Cup since that competition was inaugurated and in the last competition India nearly made Asiatic supremacy complete when they narrowly lost to the USA the final round.

During the past few years, National Badminton Associations have sprung up like mushrooms all over Asia, and today there are no fewer than 11 of them affiliated to the International Badminton Federation—Burma, Ceylon, Hongkong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, India, the Philippines, and Thailand.

The game is rapidly becoming popular in the Australasian countries and for the first time in history this year Australasian players have ventured out into international competition.

The New Zealand Champions, Mr and Mrs J. E. Robson, who are now in England, will be competing in the All-England Championships and all the major European championships and have already conquered the Yorkshire titles, and reports have it that Robson may merit a place among the world's best ten singles.

The Australian Ladies' Singles Champion for the last two years, Miss E. M. Peacock, is now in Malaya before proceeding to England.

She has already made her presence felt in Malayan bad-

minton by representing Selangor in the recent Triangular Tournament and together with the Malayan Ladies' Singles Champion, Mrs Cecilia Samuel, was the backbone of the Selangor team.

EVER HIGHER STANDARD

Reports from all over Asia and Australia indicate that not only has there been tremendous growth in the popularity of the sport, but also that there is likelihood of players reaching a standard in the near future that has never been equalled.

The question of whether Champions are too old at 35 remains still a matter for controversy, but there is no doubt that new names will come to the fore among the record entry in this year's Thomas Cup Competition.

Foremost among them should be the new 19-year-old Champion of India, K. Mahan, who only recently defeated the former Indian Champion, T. N. Seth, for the fourth time in succession in two straight sets. Then there is Thailand's 19-year-old Champion, Pinich Patapong, who is regarded by Wong Peng-soon as his successor as Asia's No. 1 player. Pinich, whose sister holds the Thailand Ladies' Singles title and recently defeated Hongkong's Champion, Miss Ulan Khoo, in 11-4 and 11-4 defeat, has all the facilities

of the game at his disposal including a privately-owned badminton hall and must be considered a strong candidate for world honours.

There is a strong possibility that Hongkong fans may see these two young potential world champions in action as the Thailand team has expressed a wish to visit Hongkong some time next year.

In Malaya two youngsters, Oon Chong-tik and Chan Slew-king, have been prominent in the season's tournaments. It is not yet known what Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia and Japan have in potential talent, but it is only hoped that Hongkong may also be able to supply its quota in another three or four years' time by adopting and accelerating a constructive plan.

The American and European Zones will most probably attract the same entries as usual for the Thomas Cup competition and so far no news of any particularly promising new players has been received. America will most likely rely on almost exactly the same team as in the previous Thomas Cup competition.

Despite appeals from all over the world, it is almost a certainty that Dave Freeman will not wield the racket for the USA again as he has already started his own private medical practice. Should he change his mind, the match of the century between him and Wong Peng-soon is indicated.

The only crop of good new players likely from Denmark, which is almost certain to reach the semi-final of the competition again.

HARD TIME

Malaya will have a hard time defending the Cup in this third competition, if she enters the field without Wong Peng-soon and Abdullah Piruz. I predict that India will be the strongest challenger.

The All-England Championships, scheduled to take place in London from March 17 to March 20 this year, will have more than the usual quota of foreign entries.

Among them are the Robsons, and the All-India Champion, Mahan, and the All-India runner-up, T. N. Seth.

The Choong brothers, who between them hold the three major titles, are expected to meet with much stronger opposition than last year.

This is one time that Welsh outside half Cliff Morgan got away in the game at Cardiff. Bill Clark missed his tackle by the thickness of a jersey. Wales beat the New Zealanders 13-8.

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

Princely Gift May Live Up To His Breeding

By JAMES PARK

Princely Gift was in the December Sales catalogue, but, as he did not change hands, it is assumed that he will be available for next season's racing. Handicapped at 8 st. 9 lb. in the Free Handicap, Princely Gift did not run beyond five furlongs, and yet, from his breeding, one would expect him to stay reasonably well.

He is by Nasrullah out of a Blue Peter mare, and that suggests something more than a turn of speed. It was still a little disappointing to find him in the sales list, even if he failed to make his reserve. For some time in his first season Princely Gift seemed to regard racing in a light-hearted way. I have

a vivid recollection of seeing him walking round the paddock at York in August playfully plucking at the coat sleeve of the lad who was leading him round.

His light-heartedness extended to the race and it seemed to me he could have beaten King's Evidence if he had shown a more workmanlike desire to get on with the business.

I did not expect King's Evidence to concede 7 lb. that day, but he did after a gruelling race which left me wondering whether he took more out of himself than can be replaced.

ROUSED

Princely Gift came to no harm as he won his two later races. In each case he was thoroughly roused and made to realize a serious job was on hand. When Princely Gift met Darius in the July Stakes, Darius was ridden in the manner which suits him best.

He came with a sharp rally out of the Dip and went past Princely Gift in a manner which suggested a ready victory. But Sir Gordon Richards got Princely Gift going again and, with Darius getting off a true line, there were only a few inches between them as they went past the post.

We now find Darius set to concede 7 lb. so that in the official opinion Princely Gift lost a little ground in the second half of the season.

I took a great liking to Nasrullah's son when he made a first appearance and the speed showed that day when very backward led me to think that he would be up to Ascot class. He did not run at the Royal meeting.

The going was heavy when the colt won at Newmarket in Houghton week.

In the first list of prices I have seen he is a 10-1 chance for the 2,000 Guineas and 25-1 for the Derby. I can hardly think classic prospects have been entertained as, in that case, I should not have ex-

Gremlins Wanted

The undermentioned are requested to turn out for a game against the Victorians on Saturday at Boundary Street Police Ground at 2.30 p.m.

M. Muir, B. Rouse, S. Silva, M. Roberts, R. Kerr, M. Blenkinsop, N. James, H. Lewis, H. Fowler, D. Barton (Capt), A. Perry, Reserve, I. Grimston.

Australians Get 'Sticky' About Brisbane

London, Dec. 30. The MCC Committee will consider at its next meeting the Australian Board of Control's rejection, reported earlier today, of their request that Brisbane be omitted from the Test venues on the next England tour of Australia.

The MCC Secretary said no official reply had yet been received from Australia but that when it does arrive a meeting will be called.

"The Australian Board's decision to keep Brisbane as a Test ground, which we opposed on climatic and financial grounds, means that we may have to reconsider our plans of the tour," he said.—China Mail Special.

All Blacks Beat The Midland Counties

Birmingham, Dec. 30. New Zealand's Rugby Union tourists beat the Midland Counties at Villa Park today by 18 points (three goals and a penalty goal) to three (a penalty goal).

Each side scored a penalty in the first half, but New Zealand obviously meant business afterwards as they converted successive tries by Bagley, Clarke and Wilson.

So outplayed were the Counties after half time that only three occasions did the ball enter the All Blacks' half of the field.

New Zealand took the lead after six minutes when the Counties were penalised for foot up over off an upright.

Both sides found the scrum ball difficult to control and there were some signs of the pitch cutting up after the morning rain. Once Greasley, the Counties' left back, trusted his feet rather than his hands and dribbled from near half way to the opposing 25 before being checked.

Several times accurate defensive kicking by Channer, eased pressure against the Counties. After half an hour Jackson booted over the All Blacks' line where Kelly, challenged, kicked into touch in goal. From the resultant scrumage the touring side were penalised for feet up and Channer sent the ball over to equalise.

NOT IN FAVOUR

The New Zealand side had enjoyed more of the game but conditions were not in favour of their style of play.

It was not long after the interval that the forward strength of New Zealand began to dominate play. Clarke, White and Stuart led a cool rush into the Counties' 25 and Bagley booted

THE GAMBOLS



CRACK AMERICAN COLT TO RACE IN BRITAIN

By "THE SCOUT"

London. A touch of excitement colours the 1954 racing programme with the news that Native Dancer, the famous American colt, is to visit Europe.

Mr Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, his owner, has been toying with this idea for several months. Native Dancer, soon to be a four-year-old, has been beaten only once in 19 starts.

Under American rules, his future will lie in handicap races. It is unlikely that he will ever have a decent mark in the weights, and the nomination has influenced Mr Vanderbilt in planning a European tour.

Gerald Baiding, trainer for the Sagamore stable, confirmed that this expedition has been in Mr Vanderbilt's mind for some considerable time.

He thought it likely that the grey colt's visit would be on the lines of "a smash-and-grab raid" (my words, in case there's any misunderstanding).

Alfred G. Gwynne, empirical, forthright, is keen to prove the quality not only of his colt but of American blood-stock in general.

BY AIR TO ASCOT

The idea, at present, is to transport the colt by air to Ascot for the £25,000 race some ten days in advance.

Native Dancer would be accompanied by Bill Winfrey, his trainer, and by Eric Guerin, his jockey.

He will need practice at our starting-gate—a facility which the Ascot authorities will gladly afford. Guerin may require experience of riding round the course, especially as Ascot is right-handed. This can also be arranged.

The year has been well chosen, for it is difficult now to name any likely champions from England or France. And, make no mistake, Native Dancer's record stamps him as a really superior horse.

I only saw him twice, when he was a two-year-old. The first time he set off in front, had the race won in the first two furlongs, and won pulling up.

That performance was registered on a fast track at Stratford. The distance was five and a half furlongs.

The grey colt came out again, against stiffer opposition, a week later. On the morning of the race a thunderstorm broke over Stratford and the dirt track looked like a mess of chocolate pudding.

The distance was now six furlongs and Guerin reversed his earlier tactics. He pulled "the Dancer" back and he had five lengths to make up on the leaders in the short straight.

It seemed impossible. But the grey colt, with his long, effortless stride, went through that mud as if it was made of ducks' feathers and won with his ears cocked.

His record should be 100 per cent. He lost the Kentucky Derby by inches after being bumped and losing ground early in the race. It will not be the first time, or the last, that a good jockey has ridden a bad race.

Anyway, after this bump Guerin became nervous and indecisive. When he made his challenge the leader was too far in front and the winning-post too near.

(London Express Service)

HKFC TEAMS

The following have been selected to represent the Hongkong Football Club in soccer league matches on Sunday, January 3. Both games are to be played at Soekunpo.

1st Division H.K.F.C. v St. Joseph's on Sunday at 4 p.m. at Soekunpo—Cotton, Armstrong, Tarpey, A. C. McMahon, Forster, Mullen, Keane, Falconer, Pickering, reserves, Saults, Bishop.

2nd Division H.K.F.C. v St. Joseph's on Sunday at 2.30 p.m. at Soekunpo—Jones, Bishop, Strang, Fraser, Leaper, Mullen, reserves, Kitchin, Delgan, Saults, Wake, reserves, Munch, Holmes, Beattie.

BACK FROM TAIWAN

The Chinese referees soccer team returned from Taipei yesterday after playing a four-game series there.

WELCOME TO THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONS OF ENGLAND!

By I. M. MacTAVISH

Welcome to Pegasus...welcome to the present day greats of amateur football in England...welcome to a band of sportsmen who can really claim to play the game for its own sake...for its traditions...and not for the personal gains and advantages that accompany success.

Fiction writers would think twice before offering a story of a phenomenal football team that is born as the realisation of a great ideal: that restricts the selection of its players to a very limited sphere: that flashes into action in the very best Corinthian style, and then, carrying all before it, wins the premier award in its country, not once but twice, in the first five years of its existence.

If such a story reached the pages of a boy's magazine it would be devoured with relish by hero-worshipping schoolboys, but it would be laughed off as utter fantasy by father in all his knowledge.

Fact, however, is often stranger than fiction and those are the achievements of the Pegasus players who will assist us to usher in the New Year in high class style.

Tomorrow Pegasus will troop on to the pitch at Caroline Hill to oppose the best team that the Colony can put out against them. I still say that it is a good side in spite of all the criticism that was voiced when the new selection committee completed its first task. The proof will come tomorrow afternoon.

Pegasus will set our players a tough problem, but I do not believe that the Hongkong boys will be found wanting in ideas for a successful solution to the situation.

If they are beaten it will be because the visitors are the better team...But if they win it will not be because Pegasus are showing any sympathy for the locals...on the contrary, because on this occasion we happen to have the better team.

I have not seen Pegasus play recently although I have a collection of reports on the games they played in the weeks before they left home, and for that reason and that reason only I am not going to make any forecast of the outcome of the first game.

I shall go along to watch the play with a critical eye. I shall be hoping that the better team wins, but I shall be hoping that that team is Hongkong for our soccer system needs just such a tonic to save it from running down.

To the Pegasus team I issue this friendly warning. Whatever the final result you will know you have been in a hard game. The team that has been

selected to oppose you in this opening game has a shrewd blend of the traditional local close-passing style play and the wider, faster game you know back home.

The side is made up of six Chinese and five Englishmen who for several weeks have been looking forward with typical sportsmen's enthusiasm to taking part in this game. They will make you play every inch of the way, because, to gain a victory over you would be considered a great honour, and I can think of no better compliment that they could pay to you.

The Colony will be represented by the following team: Granger (Army and York City); Hau Yung-sang (Sing Tao); Wells (Army); Longland (Army); Ko Po-kung (South China); Tung Shing (South China); Chu Wing-wah (South China); Reeves (Army); Portsmouth); Bennett (Army); Yui Cheuk-yin (South China); and Mok Chun-wah (South China).

EMPIRE GAMES NOTEBOOK

The British Empire and Commonwealth Games, to be staged at Vancouver next August, will be the biggest ever in the series. Vancouver intends that they should be the most successful too.

Millions of dollars have been spent to ensure that success.

For the swimming events the authorities have constructed one of the most modern pools in the world. One hundred and sixty-five feet long, and 50 feet wide, it sparkles with colourful tiling, plastic-paintwork and chromium fittings.

The diving boards are of laminated material, coated with fibreglass to resist the weakening effect of moisture. A toe adjustment on the lower boards, operated hydraulically, enables divers to set the tension to their requirements.

That's not all. The water will be heated and illuminated from below.

5,076 MILES OF WIRE

Some idea of the magnitude of the task in preparing for the Games is revealed in the report of Earl T. Squire, Chairman of the Communications committee.

Inter-School Cricket

The Diocesan Boys School drew with King George V School in friendly cricket match at DBS yesterday.

KGV	
J. Shroff, b. Liu	1
K. Spencer, c. Kirtawa, b. Myles	3
J. Basso, run out	21
J. Whitaker, b. Myles	51
J. Shroff, c. Kirtawa, b. Liu	51
C. Randall, retired	26
G. Brown, c. Kent, b. Myles	0
F. Walker, c. Kent, b. Myles	0
E. McCann, c. Gule, b. Myles	0
R. Spence, b. Myles	0
R. Beyer, not out	0
Extras	0
Total	151

Bowling Analysis	
A. Myles	32 3 42 5
E. Gule	6 0 18 1
R. Liu	4 1 20 2
St. Liu	0 0 0 0

DBS	
A. Djang, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	4
B. Gule, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	12
M. Prew, not out	15
R. Basso, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	0
G. Kent, c. Walker, b. Whitaker	0
R. Shroff, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	0
C. Randall, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	0
R. Basso, c. Spencer, b. Whitaker	0
Extras	0
Total (for 9 wickets)	30

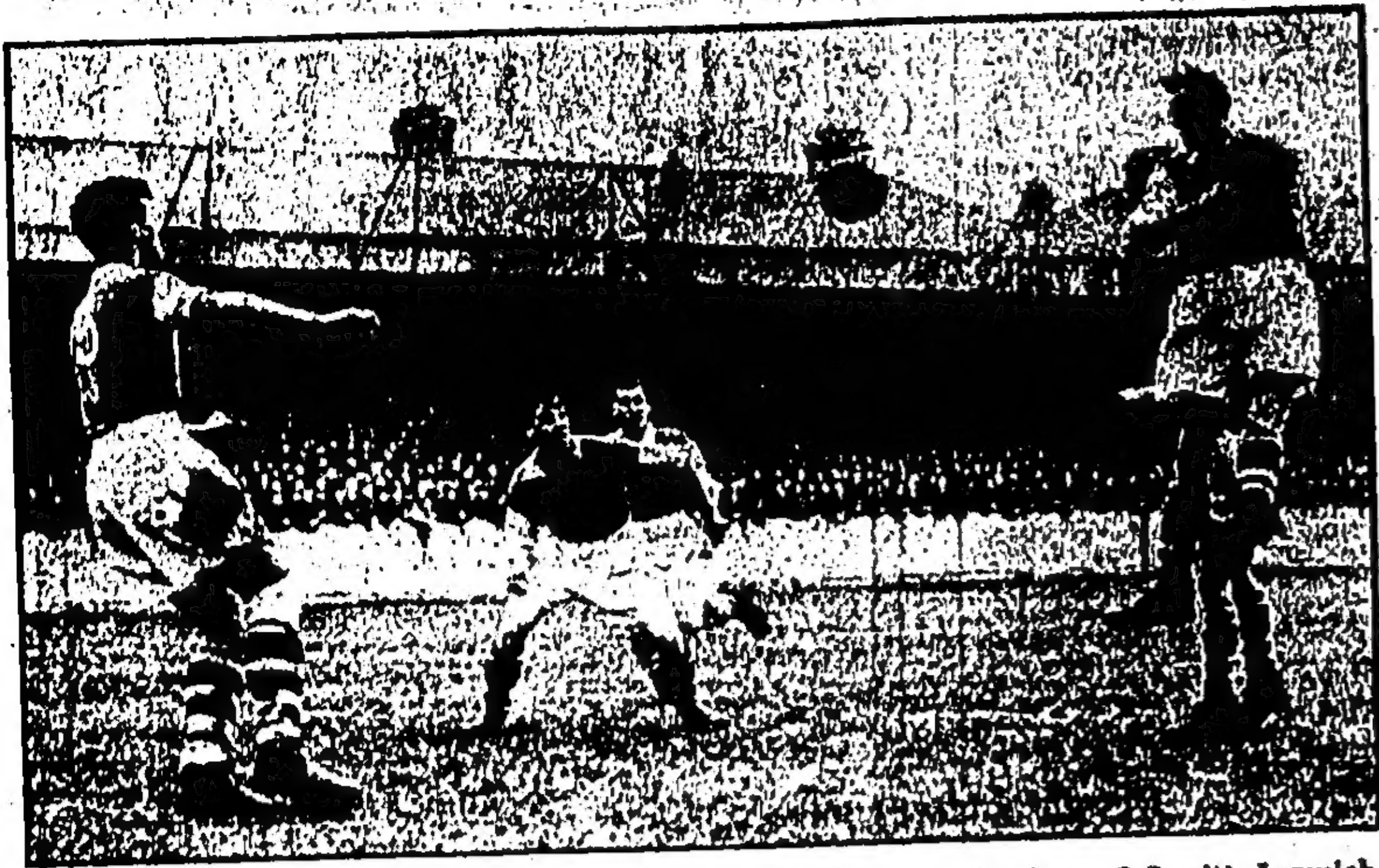
Bowling Analysis	
Whitaker	11 3 42 5
Walker	6 0 18 1
Shroff	4 1 20 2
St. Liu	0 0 0 0

Senior "B" All Star Nine To Play U.S. Navy

The following have been chosen to represent the Senior "B" All Stars against the U.S. Navy (represented by the Cockrell) in New Year's exhibition game slated for 4 p.m. tomorrow:

Senior "B" All Stars:—Tony Rodrigues (Franklin); Loureiro; Bernardo Sance (Delaware); Reggie Matloe (Carlinio); Viera; Bernard Silva (Whidde); Onofre Souza, Tony Ray, Manuel Nunes (Dodgers); Claude Pugh; J. Bordwell, Wheeler (Americans); Jimmy Marick, Tony Wu (Panama); Reggie Viera (HKU); Bill Silva (Team Manager).

WALTHAMSTOW AVENUE v. IPSWICH



Walthamstow Avenue, the amateur football team who drew 2-2 with Ipswich Town, the Third Division League team, in the second round of the FA Cup competition, lost the replay 0-1.

This photograph was taken at the replay and shows Garneys, the Ipswich centre-forward, rising to the occasion in a heading duel with L. Brahan (No. 5), the Walthamstow centre-half.

Tomorrow's Chances At The Valley

By "RAPIER"

The Hongkong Jockey Club's two-day Sixth Race Meeting of the 1953/54 season opens tomorrow and continues on Saturday the 9th January, 1954.

There are 10 events down for decision tomorrow, the most important of which is the New Year Handicap for Class 1 ponies.

The First Saddling Bell will be rung at 11.30 a.m. and the first race will be run at 12.00 noon. The fifth interval will come after the running of the fourth race, and the first bell after fifth will be rung at 2.30 p.m.

Given fine weather conditions, the meeting should attract a record crowd of racing fans. Here are my estimates of the chances:

FIRST RACE

Tyram Bay Handicap: From 2 Mile Post.

The opening race of the day is confined to Class 7 ponies to be ridden by Riders who have not won ten races anywhere at any time.

Pearl Diver is coming up to winning a race and should help novice Mr. Yen Ching-lan to graduate.

Flaming Wheel (H. K. Hung), Great Conqueror (L. H. Chan), Madame Butterfly (Alex. Lam) and Rose Emma (H. K. Cheng) have shown much promise in morning gallops and should provide a spirited challenge for premier honours in this opener of the two-day race meeting.

SECOND RACE

Quarry Bay Handicap: From 1½ Mile Post.

In this race, I like the chances of Lassie (M. Samarcq), Queenpots (K. Kwok), Gladiolus (Chun Kit) and Al Fresco (A. Ostroumoff).

Lassie came second in the Obelisk Hill Handicap over Six Furlongs at that account it was penalised by 5 lbs. As it is happier over a shorter distance, I think it can handle this extra weight and win here.

Queenpots is dangerous, and if Gladiolus can get off to a flying start, it will give both Lassie and Queenpots a great fight as the pony has been primed well for this race.

Al Fresco is very fit and is capable of causing an upset.

THIRD RACE

Belcher Bay Handicap: One Mile.

Pony, with Mr. F. Noodt up, has the distance, weight, combination and class all in her favour and should have no difficulty in winning in this crowd.

Blister Sweet (J. A. Auchincloss) and Evergreen (H. C. Woon) are good enough to offer certain opposition in case this brown mare falters.

Aesthete (H. K. Chuang), Bonnie Eyes (M. Samarcq) and South Pacific (A. Noodt) have some chance here.

FOURTH RACE

Ajari Bay Handicap: Six Furlongs.

This sprint race for Class 5 ponies has attracted 17 entries and, in view of the short distance, an upset is probable.

Perfectionist (P. Woi), Ben Macchui (K. Kwok), Hiram C (C. F. Ng) and Queen Helen (K. Shih) should be worth watching.

I strongly fancy Perfectionist as the distance is well suited for this pony although it ran unplaced the last time out.

Main challenge should come from Ben Macchui, which is also quite at home over the distance.

Then there is Hiram C to be considered as it is a sprinter and, given a good start, might cause an upset, while Queen Helen should also be kept in mind.

FIFTH RACE

New Year Handicap: From 2 Mile Post.

This is the main event of the afternoon and will be contested by Class 1 ponies.

Chamber (H. K. Cheng) has the quality to win in this field, judging from its third placing in the Hongkong Autumn Championships at the last meeting, and may well be the best of the day.

Another pony which is in the running is Lassie, which was second in the Obelisk Hill Handicap over Six Furlongs at that account it was penalised by 5 lbs. As it is happier over a shorter distance, I think it can handle this extra weight and win here.

Queenpots is dangerous, and if Gladiolus can get off to a flying start, it will give both Lassie and Queenpots a great fight as the pony has been primed well for this race.

Al Fresco is very fit and is capable of causing an upset.

CORONATION YEAR WAS A SPLENDID ONE FOR BRITISH SPORT

By VERNON MORGAN

London, Dec. 31.

Coronation year was a splendid one for British sport. Results achieved give promise of even greater successes in the important year to come.

The one major blot was the 6-3 soccer defeat of England by Hungary, who inflicted the first reverse ever on England on home soil by a continental team. For 90 years this record had remained intact.

To set against this was England's win over Australia at cricket, her first victory for the mythical "ashes" for 20 years and the first Test series win at home for 27 years.

The British women golfers scored their first success against their American rivals in winning the Curtis Cup, while the male professionals only lost their battle against the Americans in the Ryder Cup by a matter of inches—a missed putt.

While there was no apparent revival in British lawn tennis among either sex, the table tennis players, men and women, retained their places among the world's best. The men won the Swaythling Cup, the world crown for teams, for the first time.

The boxers failed to cover themselves with glory, apart from heavyweight Don Cockell, who confounded everyone by beating one of the leading American heavyweights, Harry Matthews, in Seattle. This victory to some extent set off the beating Randolph Turpin took at the hands of the American, Bobo Olson, in their bout for the world middleweight title.

British horsemen and horsewomen kept the Union Jack flying at those shows on both sides of the Atlantic. Miss Patsy Smythe, the 24-year-old Gloucestershire girl, could rightly be hailed as Britain's number one sportswoman for 1953. Fox Hunter, though he once or twice fell from grace when jumping indoors in North America, lived up to his name as the most popular horse in the world—proved by the flood of Christmas cards he received.

If it was a black year for English soccer, it was a good one for English rugby. Wales were beaten by eight to three at Cardiff and England took the triple crown.

In the mechanical world, Mike Hawthorn drove so well that he is now in the top class of all, while the world-famous cyclist, Geoffrey Duke, Fergus Anderson and Eric Oliver, all won world titles. Mr and Mrs Ian Appleyard, of Yorkshire, earned a rating among the

world's most famous married couples for their brilliant driving in the big motor rallies.

AWARD OF THE YEAR

But the award of the year for the sport which gave England the greatest world prestige must go to the track stars—to men like Gordon Pirie, Jim Peters and Roger Bannister.

Pirie ran so superbly as to be compared with the sensational Czech, Emil Zatopek, the triple Olympic gold medalist.

The clash between Pirie, who broke two world records during the season, and Zatopek in the European Championships in Switzerland next year is regarded as likely to be the greatest sporting encounter of the season.

The tough, little distance runner, Peters, ran the fastest Marathon of the year in the world, putting up the astonishing time of two hours, 18 minutes 34.8 seconds in the Finnish international event at Turku.

If Zatopek goes for the Marathon in the European Championships, Peters will give him a far harder battle than he did in the Olympic Marathon at Helsinki. If the present running of the British Champion is any criterion, At Helsinki, Peters had to fall out. He learned his lesson in that race and he is not likely to repeat his mistake.

Bannister, with an unofficial 4 minutes 2 seconds, got as near as anyone in the world to the magic four-minute mile, and to cap a wonderful athletic season England took four world relay records, the four miles (four times one mile) and 6,000 metres (four times 1,500 metres) for men while the women set new figures for the one and a half miles (three times half a mile) and the 880 yards (four times 220 yards).

TESTING TIME

Next year will be a testing one for English sport. First on the trial will be soccer men who play Yugoslavia and

Hungary in Belgrade and Budapest respectively next May, and then do battle against the world in the Championships in Switzerland.

There is little hope of England winning this contest, though the Football Association has taken to heart the coming of the "masters" by the Hungarian "pupils", and every effort will be made to produce a much better side.

Then come the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Vancouver, where the great struggle for supremacy in nine sports. The Duke of Edinburgh will be there to watch them.

Flying quickly back from Canada, the track and field athletes will head for Switzerland where they face the crack continental stars in the European Championships. These should produce some wonderful running, jumping and throwing.

And as the old year closes, the cricketers will be setting out for Australia in a bid to prove that their victory in the England vs. Australia test in the rain of Australia on the kings of the cricket world is on the wane—China Mail Special.

New South Wales Defeat Victoria

Melbourne, Dec. 30.

New South Wales raced to an early win over Victoria on the final day of their Sheffield Shield match today.

They won by nine wickets, final scores being: New South Wales 401 and 71 for one wicket; Victoria 300 and 222.

Victoria's remaining two wickets added only 12 runs when play was resumed today. Fast bowler Ray Lindwall took one of them to finish with five wickets for 38 runs for the innings.

New South Wales hit the required 71 runs for victory in 51 minutes.

R. Briggs batted brightly to score 35 and Arthur Morris made a neat 27 not out.—Reuter.

'UNSPOILABLE' IS THE WORD FOR AUDREY

Says ALAN DENT

Imagine my surprise when I found in the heart of Hollywood a play that has been running there for 21 years without a stop. This is the mock-serious old drama of "The Drunkard" which the greatest of showmen, Phineas T. Barnum, first presented in 1843 in New York City.

This is just one of those plays so bad that they won't stop running. They become a fashion and a habit. At the Theatre Mart in Hollywood you sit at a table—something like our own Players Theatre—and are provided with light refreshments and invited to join in the chorus into which the characters break when they are weary of moralising in the old melodramatic way.

A programme note gives us a list of the many live film stars who have come along to revel in "The Drunkard."

I had my own "elegant sufficiency" of live film stars on my last day in Hollywood when I was shown round the Paramount Studios.

The first thing I did here was to look straight through Mr. Bing Crosby, who—it is only fair to add—looked straight back through me in return.

DELIGHTFUL

But it was delightful to me to meet Audrey Hepburn, the set of her new film "Roman Holiday" which she is making here. She is a lovely girl, very young, very old, indeed, but not very old. (Crosby and I were both very old.)

I reminded Miss Hepburn of an occasion when, some three or four years ago in a London revue called "Sauce Tartare," she won a round of applause by dint of sheer grace and piquancy, though she had not a word to say and her name was not in the programme. She said she remembered, the occasion very well, and I told her how I joined in the applause.

Furthermore I told her, there and then, that she looked "unspoilable," and she said it was a nice word which she would try to remember.

STOLEN RIDE

This joke, I chatted with several directors and producers of note and fame, and for a refreshment stole a short ride on a green bicycle marked "Danny Kaye" which was supposed against one of the studio.

I had hardly got the bicycle back in its place when I met Mr. Kaye himself, looking about 15 and wearing a boy's round white cotton hat and powder-blue slacks.

Mr. Kaye asked me what I was doing in Hollywood as a dramatic critic, and I asked him what he was doing there when he should be back at the "Palladium." So Mr. Kaye gave me an old-fashioned look and said: "Come and see me at my house when I've finished my day's work."

The last thing I did in the Paramount Studios was to lunch in the studio-restaurant with the publicity manager and the editor of films which men with keen sense of humour and to heavy attention drawn to a distant phenomenon of great wonderment.

It was an apparition which came slowly into a doorway, surveyed the scene for a moment and then slowly withdrew again.

A VISION

It was a vision all in white, it was like a ghost, and it was a vision for all to see.

HKCC Team To Play Pegasus

The following will represent the HKCC against a combined Royal Navy and RAF team on Friday, January 1, at Chater Road.

Play will commence at 11.30 a.m.

L. D. Kilbee, I. L. Stanton, R. W. Franklin, F. A. Weller, H. Owen-Hughes, T. A. Pearce, D. W. Leach, G. H. Pritchard, K. G. Spink, R. M. Macpherson, R. H. Hughes, F. Van Oord, J. R. Jekyll, R. H. Campion.

The following have been selected to represent the HKCC in a friendly game against HMS Newcastle on Sunday, January 3, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

The match will take place at King's Park.

L. D. Kilbee (Capt.), G. H. Pritchard, J. Barber, R. Davies, R. W. Leach, J. Barber, R. Davies, R. W. Leach, J. Barber, R. Davies.

Twelfth man—D. Horley.

Two Russians At The Hastings Chess Congress

Hastings, Dec. 30.

The Hastings International Chess Congress opens tonight with two Russian chess masters taking part—the first time the Russians have competed since 1934.

The Soviet chess experts are David Bronstein, 29, and Alexander Tolush, 42.

Accompanied by an interpreter and a Soviet Government agent, they will stay at the Queen's Hotel during the 10-day tournament.

All told, 121 players from 12 countries are taking part.—United Press.

KCC TENNIS

The following tennis matches are scheduled to be played off during the week-end at Kowloon Cricket Club.

Match 1—H. Van Dijk & D. Coffey v. C. Tappan & P. Simon at 1.30 p.m.

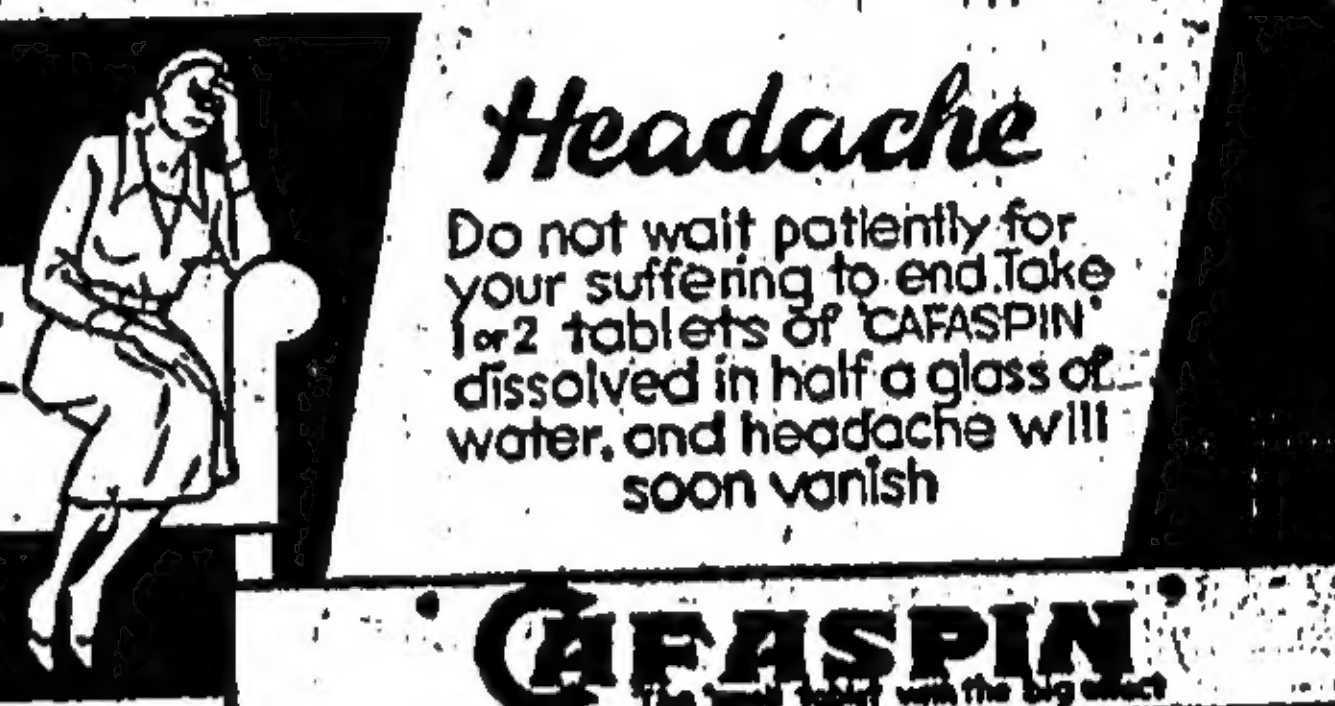
Match 2—A. H. Aspinwall v. F. A. Aspinwall at 1.30 p.m.



SANDEMAN PORT and SHERRY

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Headache

Do not wait patiently for your suffering to end. Take 2 tablets of CAFASPIN dissolved in half a glass of water, and headache will soon vanish.

CAFASPIN

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SIXTH RACE MEETING

(To be held under the Rules of the Hong Kong Jockey Club)

Friday 1st and Saturday 9th January, 1954.

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF 18 RACES

The First Bell will be rung at 11.30 a.m. on the 1st Day, and the First Race run at 12.00 Noon. The fifth interval is after the Fourth Race (1.30 p.m.). On the 2nd Day the First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the First Race run at 2 p.m.

The Secretary's Office at Alexandra House will close at 10 a.m. on the 1st Day and at 11.45 a.m. on the 2nd Day.

MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

NO PERSON WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED.

All persons MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the meeting.

Admission Badges at \$10.00 each per day are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him.

Timings will be obtainable at the Club House if ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 72811).

NO CHILDREN will be admitted to the Club's premises during the Meeting. For this purpose a Child is a person under the age of seventeen years, Western standard.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission will be \$3.00 each per day payable at the Gate.

Any person leaving the Enclosure will be required to pay the requisite fee of \$3.00 in order to gain re-admission.

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS will be obtainable in the RESTAURANT.

SERVANTS

Servants must remain in their employer's boxes except for passing through on their duties. They may on no account use the Betting Booths in the Members' Betting Hall.

CASH SWEEPS

The cost of a Thorough Ticket is \$30.00. Through Tickets reserved for this meeting but not paid for by 10 a.m. on Thursday, 31st December, will be sold and the reservation cancelled for future meetings.

Cash Sweep Tickets on the last race of the 1st Day (1st January) at \$2.00 each may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Offices at Queen's Building, (Chater Road), 5, D'Agulhar Street and 322 Nathan Road, during normal office hours and until 10 a.m. on that day.

Tickets for the Special Cash Sweep on the Pearce Memorial Cup scheduled to be run on 30th January, 1954, are now available. The cost of each ticket is \$2.00.

TOTALISATOR

Backers are advised not to destroy or throw away their tickets until after the "all clear" signal has been exhibited.

ALL WINNING TICKETS AND TICKETS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT AT THE RACE COURSE ON THE DAY TO WHICH THEY REFER, NOT LATER THAN ONE HOUR AFTER THE TIME FOR WHICH THE LAST RACE OF THE DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE RUN.

PAYMENT WILL NOT BE MADE ON TORN OR DISFIGURED TICKETS.

Bookmakers, Tie Tac men, etc. will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

By Order of the Stewards,

H. MISA, Secretary.

the Gold Room

GALA DINNER DANCE NEW YEAR'S EVE
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE NEW YEAR'S EVE
 Made by Tony Tubbins Quintet
 Open till 2 a.m. Both Nights Fancy Gifts & Novelties on New Year's Eve

- GOLD ROOM
- COCKTAIL LOUNGE
- BAMBOO BAR

- MEZZANINE LOUNGE
- MANDARIN ROOM
- RENDEZVOUS ROOM

All under the same management of Hotel Mifan Restaurant Ltd.

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BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

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SAILLINGS TO			
"FUKIEN"	Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	8 a.m.	1st Jan.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	10 a.m.	1st Jan.
"HANYANG"	Moji, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	10 a.m.	2nd Jan.

ARRIVALS FROM			
"PETER REED"	Taipei		1st Jan.
"FAKHOI"	Shanghai	a.m.	3rd Jan.
"HUPEH"	Tientsin & Tientsin		3rd Jan.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILLINGS TO			
"TAIPING"	Kobe & Kobe		9th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM			
"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila		9th Jan.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said			
	Leads	Sails	
"TERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	8th Jan.	6th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan.	14th Jan.
"CLYTONES"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan.	23rd Jan.
"ASTYANAX"	Gd. n. Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London & Hamburg	24th Jan.	25th Jan.
"PYRRHUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	9th Feb.	9th Feb.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe			
	Sails	Arrives	
S. "ASTYANAX"	Liverpool	8th Jan. 1954	
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	18th Jan. 1954	
S. "EDMAEUS"	do	25th Jan. 1954	
G. "ASCANIUS"	do	28th Jan. 1954	
S. "AGAPENOR"	3rd Jan.	7th Feb. 1954	
G. "FELEUS"	7th Jan.	13th Jan. 1954	
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Jan.	22nd Feb. 1954	
G. "ATREUS"	24th Jan.	28th Feb. 1954	

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	Sailed	1st Jan.
"DONA AURORA"	do	do	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	do	28th Jan.
"BATAAN"	do	do	12th Jan.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	15th Jan.	6th Feb.	7th Mar.

SAILING FOR NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.

	Leads	Sails	Arr. H.K.
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	8th Jan.	24th Jan.
"HAINAN"	18th Jan.	20th Jan.	17th Feb.
"DONA AURORA"	17th Feb.	18th Feb.	18th Feb.

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HK/Bangkok/Singapore (DC-4)	7.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	1.15 a.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Manila/B.N. Burnee (DC-3)	8.30 a.m. Tue. Fri.	3.45 p.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Singapore (DC-3)	11.30 a.m. Wed.	5.45 p.m. Thu.
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong (DC-3)	10.00 a.m. Wed.	2.45 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Hongkong/Calcutta	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

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CIE DES MESSEAGERIES MARITIMES

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are loaded.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs Godard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Monday, 4th January, 1954.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 31st January, 1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 24th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIE DES MESSEAGERIES MARITIMES

Hongkong, 30th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CIE DES MESSEAGERIES MARITIMES

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

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Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs Godard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 2nd January, 1954.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 4th January, 1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 24th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIE DES MESSEAGERIES MARITIMES

Hongkong, 28th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

HARPER-ROTHWELL LINE

m.v. "TALLEYRAND"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are loaded.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs Godard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 30th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 31st December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 10th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 20th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m.v. "CLYTONES"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are loaded.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs Godard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on January 2 and 4, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

Butterfield & Swire, Agents.

Hongkong, December 31, 1953.

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t.v. "VIET-NAM" sailing January 30th

t.v. "CAMBODGE" February 20th

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE" March 27th

t.v. "VIET-NAM" April 17th

t.v. "CAMBODGE" May 15th

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE" June 19th

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

LLOYD TRIESTINO

m.v. "ASIA"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are loaded.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs Godard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 11th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

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DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1953.

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m.v. "CLYTONES"

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Butterfield & Swire, Agents.

Hongkong, December 31, 1953.

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"CORFU"	10th December	18th January
"CHITON"	18th December	18th January
"CANTON"	10th January	18th February
"CARTHAGE"	4th February	4th March
via Southampton	Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo	
Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Ons London
"CORFU"	16th January	18th February
"CHITON"	1st February	1st March
"CANTON"	10th February	18th March
"CARTHAGE"	12th March	12th April

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London.

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Ons Hongkong
"TRESILLIAN"	18th January	18th January
"TRESILLIAN"	25th January	18th January
Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Ons London
"SOCOTRA"	3rd January	18th January

Outwards	Leaves London	Ons Hongkong
"SUNDA"	6th January	18th January

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"FALIKONDA"	due 24th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"OLINDA"	due 7th Jan.	from Karachi, Colombo & Suez
"OKHLA"	due 8th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"OBRA"	due 14th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"UMARIA"	due 15th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

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"OKHLA"	due 8th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
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"UMARIA"	due 15th Jan.	from Japan, Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

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"NELLOB"	due 15th Jan.	from Sydney, Adelaide
"EASTERN"	due 19th Feb.	from Australia
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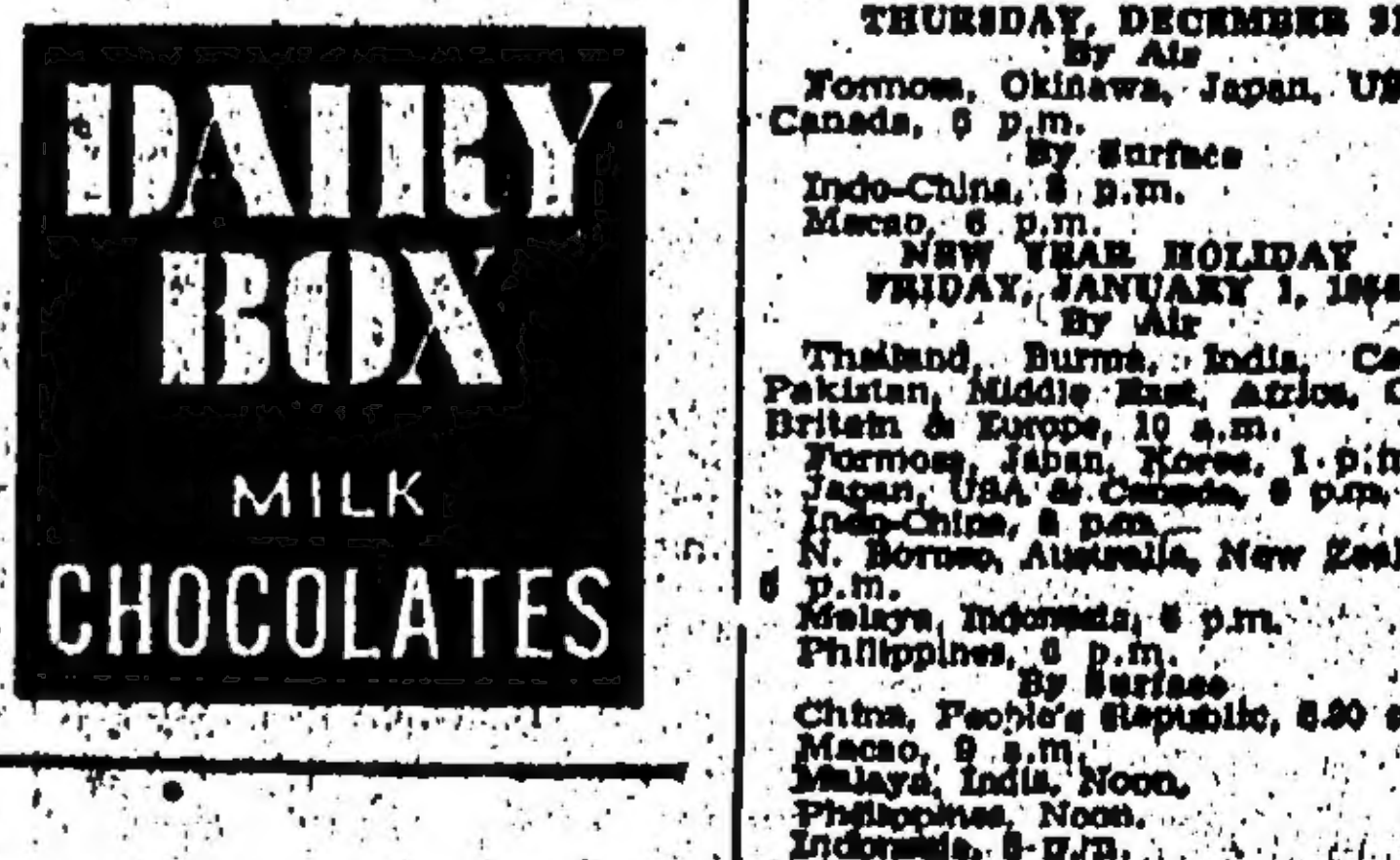


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The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest times of posting elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest times of posting for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

New Year Holiday
Tomorrow, January 1, 1954, the public offices at G.P.O. and Kowloon P.O. will be open for all postal business from 9 a.m. to noon. Other post offices will be closed. There will be one general delivery commencing 10 a.m. and one collection from the pillar boxes.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, USA & Canada, 5 p.m.
India, 6 p.m.
Macau, 6 p.m.
New Year Holiday
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1954
By Air
Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 10 a.m.
Formosa, Japan, Korea, 1 p.m.
Japan, India & Canada, 6 p.m.
India, China, 6 p.m.
N. Korea, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.
Malaya, Indonesia, 6 p.m.
Philippines, 6 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m.
Macau, 8 a.m.
Macao, 8 a.m.
Philippines, 8 p.m.
Indonesia, 8 p.m.
Macau, 8 p.m.



WOMEN SPIES SENTENCED
Berlin, Dec. 30. A woman accused of spying for the Soviet Union and Germany was sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in a prison in East Germany. The woman, whose name was not disclosed, was found guilty of passing on secret information to the Soviet Union and Germany. She was sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in a prison in East Germany. The woman, whose name was not disclosed, was found guilty of passing on secret information to the Soviet Union and Germany. She was sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in a prison in East Germany.

...this situation calls for a San Miguel

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Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"BRADEVERETT"	Arrives	Jan. 10	from Manila, Sails	Jan. 11	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta.
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"LENEVERETT"	Arrives	Jan. 25	from Japan, Sails	Jan. 26	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta.
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(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports.

"THAI"	Arrives	Jan. 1	from Manila, Sails	Jan. 2	for Singapore, Port Swettenham, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khorramshahr, Basrah & Bahrain.
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"STAR BETELGEUSE"	Arrives	Jan. 12	from Singapore, Sails	Jan. 13	for Fusan, Kobe & Yokohama.
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(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A (Incorporated in the Republic of Panama With Limited Liability)

Queen's Building, Telephone 31206.

Chinese Department: Telephone 38293.



ELIZABETH, a Circus lioness, looks very ferocious as she guards the quad cubs born to her in a Paris train on her way to a Circus in London.—Express Photo.

1953

A Memorable Year As The World Strove For Peace

London, Dec. 30.

The year of 1953 was the year of the great riddle—would the death of Joseph Stalin bring peace nearer to a nerve-racked world?

Posterity reading its history primers will know the answer. But to the statesmen, the politicians and the people who lived through it, 1953 was a time for cautious probing.

Hope of an end to suspicion and fear was stronger than at any time since the end of the war—but statesmen hesitated to take any step that might prove wrong.

It was a year when man at last conquered the Everest and stood on top of the world. It was a year that brought an armistice in Korea. It saw the crowning of a British queen in a London garbed like a fairy tale. And it was a year of disaster by flood and earthquake.

The 73-year-old Stalin in a coma in a darkened room died in March of a stroke. For 29 years his incalculable mind had ruled the millions of Russia and dominated world Communism.

By the very nature of events and not by any spectacular personal word or deed his successor, Mr. Georgi Malenkov, assumed the mantle of the man of the year.

Malenkov said there were "no controversial issues that could not be solved by peaceful means."

At the United Nations his representative, Mr. Vyshinsky, declared: "If we dig the tunnel of friendship from both ends we are likely to meet earlier half way."

CLUTCHED STRAWS
One man clutched at the straws more boldly than the rest—Sir Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain.

In the year that he reached his 78th birthday he accepted a "Knighthood from his Queen, gained the Nobel award for literature, and sought his "last prize"—peace.

The stars were wrong. The French Government fell, Sir Winston Churchill became ill from overstrain and his Foreign Secretary and Deputy, Mr. Anthony Eden, also became an invalid. The Bermuda talks were postponed.

Churchill rested in the seclusion of his country home while for two months rumours spread round the world that he was paralysed, stricken dumb, would be forced to retire.

But towards the end of the British summer the Prime Minister emerged to prove he was not dumb or immobile. The Bermuda conference was held in December in a cautiously hopeful atmosphere. For now the Russians had at last agreed to a meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers to discuss Germany.

WORLD WARPS
As the year drew to its close the world waited for the meeting to take place in Berlin early in 1954.

President Eisenhower flew from Bermuda to the United Nations. There, in a statesman-like speech on the horrors of atomic warfare, he invited Russia and other countries to co-operate in world pool of atomic materials for peaceful purposes.

Australia. But, on the other side of the fence, there was strong evidence that Russia had exploded the dreaded hydrogen bomb.

Germany remained split in two. To the anger of the Communists, West Germany voted for ratification of the European Defence Community Treaty and conventions ending Allied occupation.

But the biggest shock to the Iron Curtain leaders came in June when tens of thousands of workers in Communist East Germany rioted.

The West rated it another victory when Chancellor Adenauer's regime was overwhelmingly re-elected to power in West German polls.

BLUNT SPEAKING
But age-old suspicion still burned in France. Fears of an armed Germany kept her from ratifying the E.D.C. Treaty despite blunt speaking from Britain and America.

Peace came to the battlefields of Korea after three years of war. An armistice was signed on July 27 between the Communists and the United Nations.

Men from the prison camps came home, but as the year came to its end negotiators of both sides were still haggling over the terms of the planned political conference.

It was a big year for Royalty. In Britain Queen Elizabeth was crowned at Westminster Abbey in a glory of pomp, ceremony and colour.

Her greatest Coronation gift was the ascent of Everest, by a British expedition. Two men—Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Sherpa Tensing, famed Himalayan guide took the honours of being the first humans to stand on the summit.

COMMONWEALTH TOUR
As the old year ended, Elizabeth was far from the scene of her crowning. It was New Zealand's turn to cheer her, and it would soon be Australia's as she journeyed on a round-the-world tour of her Commonwealth and Empire.

In another part of the Middle East a Moslem ruler, King Saud, returned to his throne, then returned to it.

The Shah of Persia and his beautiful Queen fled the country after an unsuccessful attempt by Imperial Guard officers to curb the powers of the aged but turbulent Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadegh. The Shah and his Queen returned, Mossadegh went on trial, was sentenced to three years' solitary confinement.

Persia and Britain resumed the diplomatic relations they had broken off when Mossadegh ousted Britain from the rich oil fields.

Britain had other continuing troubles in the Middle East, and now ones in other parts of the world. General Nasser, ruler of Egypt, still insisted that British troops must quit their Suez base. Negotiations are deadlocked.

It seemed like a slip in the eye of the Balkan when the Sudan, holding its first independent election, voted into power the National Union Party backed by Egypt.

The President's offer came in a year when American scientists fired the first atomic shell, tested the most powerful atomic bomb ever exploded in the United States. Britain, too, carried out "atomic tests" in 1953.

The fight against Mau Mau terrorists in East Africa went on bitterly. Warships and troops were sent to British Guiana, Colony in South America, to quell a plot by the ruling local politicians to set up a Communist state. The Constitution was suspended.

TOO MUCH GOLF
Opposed by many Africans, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia were merged into a Central African Federation.

Further south, in the Union of South Africa, Dr. Daniel Malan's National Party, with its policies of racial segregation, retained power in the elections.

In the United States, President Eisenhower has his domestic as well as his foreign problems. Opponents criticised him for lack of action, for playing too much golf.

The sharpest sting in the American political hive came from Senator Joseph McCarthy, arch-enemy of Communism.

It was a year of disasters. Flood tragedy came to Holland and England. In Holland over 1,400 died in the waters and 300,000 were left homeless.

Britain's toll was 307 dead, 32,000 homeless. In the same February week-end the storms sank a passenger boat, the Princess Victoria, crossing from England to Ireland, and 128 passengers were drowned.

Earthquakes shook the Mediterranean. At least 600 died and towns and villages were devastated in Greece's Ionian Islands.

A Turkish earthquake killed 260 people and 40 died in another earthquake tremor on the island of Cyprus.

AIR DISASTERS
Japan was the scene of the worst air disaster in history. A United States Air Force Globemaster crashed near Tokyo with a death toll of 127.

A Comet jetliner—pride of British Aviation—met disaster near Calcutta and 43 died. Near Frankfurt, Germany, 44 were killed in another air accident.

On Christmas Eve, tragedy hit New Zealand when a train plunged from a broken bridge into a river bringing death to 155 people. On the same night Czechoslovakia also had a train crash with a death toll of 103.

Mystery woman of the year was Mrs. Mollie MacLean, wife of the British diplomat, Donald MacLean, who vanished two years ago with his fellow diplomat, Guy Burgess. With her three children she suddenly disappeared from Switzerland.

As all Europe hunted for her, the popular guess was that she had gone behind the Iron Curtain to join her husband.

Another twist to the same mystery came with a Christmas letter from "Burgess" to his mother—written in London, but giving no hint of his whereabouts.

Victims of the year was John Reginald Christie, a middle-aged London man who lived in a room flat with three murdered prostitutes and was found in a cupboard and two more buried in his garden. He was charged with a sensational trial.

China Mail Special

RECORD PRODUCTION FROM O.E.E.C. NATIONS

Western Germany's Output Up 15 p.c. On 1952

(FROM AN ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT)

London, Dec. 30.

Western Europe's post-war economic recovery went ahead in 1953 after the setbacks of the previous year. Industrial and agricultural output rose to new record heights, and this greatly benefited the external trade position and led to a sharp recovery in gold reserves.

The 17 nations which form the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation increased their combined production by four per cent between the first nine months of 1952 and the corresponding period of 1953.

Total industrial production—during the period for which information is available—has been running at a rate of 13 per cent above the 1950 level and over 30 per cent above the pre-war level.

Production in the metal-using industries rose only fractionally between the first seven months of 1952 and the corresponding period of 1953, but output in the chemical industries spurred over 14 per cent between the two periods.

The most spectacular increase in output was in petroleum products. Refinery production in Western Europe was running at an annual rate of almost 73,000,000 metric tons during the first six months of 1953, an improvement of nearly 1,250,000 tons over the yearly rate achieved in the corresponding six months of 1952. Output of refinery products is now more than six times as great as in 1947.

There was also a substantial improvement in shipbuilding. Merchant ship under construction in West Europe

shipyards at the end of the third quarter of 1953 totalled 4,833,000 gross tons, compared with 4,343,000 gross tons at the same time in 1952.

An average of 760,000 gross tons of merchant ships were completed in each of the three months from July to September, 31,000 tons more than in the same months of 1952.

Western Europe is now building nearly seven out of ten of the world's new cargo vessels.

In the consumer goods industries, cotton manufacturing continued its recovery from the 1952 recession. Production of cotton yarn by all O.E.E.C. members in the second quarter of 1953 averaged 113,300 metric tons a month, a rise to 16,000 tons over the average for the corresponding period of 1952. Output of cotton fabrics averaged 87,800 metric tons a month during the second quarter of the year, compared with 79,100 tons in the like period of 1952.

W. GERMANY'S RISE
An encouraging improvement has also taken place in Western Europe's agricultural production. Output of bread grains in the 1953-54 season totalled 43,077,000 metric tons, 2,338,000 tons more than in 1952-53.

Coarse grain production, at an estimated 2,337,000 tons better than in the previous year. Over 3,000,000 tons more potatoes were grown, 540,000 tons more raw sugar, and 33,000 tons more tobacco than in 1952-53.

This overall expansion of production, however, was not shared equally by all West European countries. The growth of industrial production in Western Germany easily out-paced that of other O.E.E.C. members. During the latest months for which information has been published, West Germany's production was running at a rate of 15 per cent higher than average its level in 1952.

Britain's production record has, on the whole, been less impressive, but a remarkable improvement took place in the latest months for which figures are available. Production in all industries in September reached a new record, and a further improvement is provisionally estimated for October. If the annual rate attained in the first nine months of 1953 was maintained throughout the year, total British production would be about 10 per cent above the 1952 level and slightly higher than the record level of 1951.

Total French production, on the other hand, declined by five per cent between the first seven months of 1952 and the corresponding period of 1953.

TRADE GAP REDUCED
By reducing demand for imports from the rest of the world, the general expansion of West European output had a profound effect on the area's external trade position.

A reduction of 1,400 million dollars in imports, more than offsetting a decline of 340 million dollars in exports to the rest of the world, caused Western Europe's adverse trade balance to fall from 2,833 million dollars in the first eight months of 1952 to 2,493 million dollars in the corresponding period of 1953.

The growth of industrial production also helped to ease Western Europe's dollar shortage. According to figures just published by the National City Bank of New York, O.E.E.C. countries reduced their dollar needs by no less than 747 million dollars between the two nine-month periods.

Commenting on this in the current issue of its monthly bulletin, the National City Bank says: "The dollar shortage has been reduced by a substantial margin, and the dollar position has been improved by a substantial margin."

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the revival of production in Western Europe and the growing availability of goods for domestic consumption and for export have played the most important part. Restrictions against dollar goods, deliberate efforts to turn to non-dollar sources of imports, retrenchment policies, and more effective control of inflation have, also been influential.

BALANCE WITH U.K.
Based on figures through August, United States imports from Western Europe for 1953 seem certain to be the largest since 1947. Imports from Belgium, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries, and Turkey, actually exceed the United States' commercial exports to them. United States trade with the United Kingdom was in balance, and that with the Netherlands approaching a balance.

It is more than usually difficult to forecast Western Europe's economic prospects for the year ahead. A great deal will obviously depend upon Government and private business decisions in the United States and, in particular, upon the outcome of the present inquiry into American foreign economic policy by the Randall Commission.

There is no disposition in Western Europe, however, to remain passive while American economic policies are under review. On the contrary, plans have already been laid within the framework of O.E.E.C. for a further all-round effort to increase industrial output.

On the question of convertibility, only one thing seems certain—there will be no attempt by the United Kingdom, or any other O.E.E.C. country, to "go it alone." Convertibility, when and if it comes, will be a concerted move by all the most important West European countries.

U.K. PLAN UNPOPULAR
The British plan for convertibility by easy stages has been rejected on the grounds that freedom of payments should not be achieved at the expense of freedom of trade. Debtors and creditors to the European Payment Union are combined in opposing the British plan. The former fear that convertibility would wreck the Union and thus deprive them of the automatic credits which it now provides to debtors; the latter are afraid that convertibility would lead to a loss of the non-discriminatory rights in sterling markets.

Despite West German pressure for the abolition of exchange controls, however, progress towards convertibility is likely to be slow, for any movement towards freer payments must await an American decision on its future tariff policy and the provision of adequate financial support (presumably through the International Monetary Fund) for convertible European currencies.

Meanwhile the Council of O.E.E.C. has instructed the Managing Board of the E.P.U. to examine "the problems which would arise for intra-European trade and payments in the event of one or more European currencies being made convertible, and the methods which might be adopted for ensuring an orderly transition in such circumstances." The report is expected to be ready in the near future.

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Royal Tour Stamps

Canberra, Dec. 30.
Three new postage stamps will be issued at all Australian post offices to commemorate the Royal visit to Australia. Postmaster General Sir Anthony announced today: He said the stamps would be a 3½d. rose scarlet, a 1½d. purple, and a two shilling deep green. They will be on sale for two months.
A special slogan postmark reading "Australia celebrates 1954 Royal Visit" will be stamped on all mail throughout the Royal Tour.—China Mail Special.

Increase In American Oil Demand Forecast

New York, Dec. 30.
President of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) Mr. E. Holman predicted today that domestic demand for oil in 1954 will rise "around four per cent" above the record 1953 level.
"On the average," Mr. Holman said in a year-end statement, "industrial production will probably be about five per cent less than in 1953," noting that some industries will do better than others.

Domestic demand for petroleum products in 1953 ran some six per cent higher than in 1952, Mr. Holman said. He called 1953 a good year for all segments of the oil industry.

The outlook for the new year is for even more intense competition in the petroleum industry," he said. "We now have entered a period requiring redoubled efforts by the oil companies to attract customers in the vast petroleum market at home and abroad."

Touching on the subject of oil imports, Holman noted that "segments of the domestic industry have held the opinion that imports are exceeding amounts necessary to supplement domestic supplies."

"We hope each importing company will exercise industrial statesmanship to the end that existing differences of opinion will be composed within the industry during the coming year."—United Press.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(By Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$482,325.20. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS

HSBC Bank 1580 1600 21 @ 1000

INSURANCES

London 100 100 100 @ 100

SHIPPING

Waterboat 10 10 10 @ 10.40

DOCKS, ETC.

K. Wharf 100 100 100 @ 100

PROVIDENT

Old 12.00

Shal Dock 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Whitlock 100 100 100 @ 10.00

LAND, ETC.

Shal 100 100 100 @ 10.00

HK Land 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Humphreys 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Really 100 100 100 @ 10.00

UTILITIES

Trans 100 100 100 @ 10.00

C. Light 100 100 100 @ 10.00

C. Light 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Electric 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Telephone 100 100 100 @ 10.00

INDUSTRIALS

Cement 100 100 100 @ 10.00

Rope 100 100 100 @ 10.00

STORES, ETC.

Shal 100 100 100 @ 10.00

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